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FREE BUS PASSES FOR 11 TO 16 YEAR OLDS
Council chief explains how the scheme will work

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FARM CLAIMS DISMISSED

Prosecutors told the Old Bailey John Fowler's £2 million home, Elderden Farm in Chart Hill Road, Staplehurst, was used by the Securitas robbers before the £53 million raid. Mr Fowler said he was asleep at the time of Britain's biggest ever robbery, and was cleared by the court

■ BY JON COATES

A WEALTHY car dealer who was at first seen as the mastermind behind the £53 million Securitas heist has emerged as a 'fall guy' for the robbers.

Five men were caged yesterday afternoon at the Old Bailey for a total of 70 years for their part in the armed raid on the cash depot in Tonbridge.

But the rich playboy, at first portrayed by the national media as the ringleader behind Britain's largest cash robbery, was cleared of all charges.

John Fowler, 59, from Staplehurst, spent two years in custody before being cleared at the Old Bailey in London on Monday of conspiracy to kidnap, to commit robbery and to possess a firearm.

He was arrested with business associate Stuart Royle, 49, from Maidstone, after a police marksman on a motorbike dramatically shot the tyre of a BMW car in Tankerton in February 2006 and they were surrounded.

After his arrest tales emerged of his passion for the high-life.

But his friends and associates at the time said he was a wheeler-dealer who had probably got caught up in the heist without realising it.

Prosecutors had claimed that Mr Fowler's £2 million home – Elderden Farm in Chart Hill Road – was used by the gang before the raid.

In the days after the heist £30,000 from the Securitas depot was found in the boot of a car there – along with £105,600 in a bin liner buried



NOT GUILTY: John Fowler

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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Printed by Newsfax

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Trust receives praise for its maternity care

■ BY LAUREN MUMFORD

PREGNANT women in the county town are receiving the best maternity care in Kent, a national study has revealed.

A Healthcare Commission survey has rated maternity services provided by Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust as 'better performing' – which no other trust in Kent has ever achieved.

But emergency maternity services will soon not be available in Maidstone, with patients being taken to Tunbridge Wells if there are complications in births under proposed changes to healthcare provision.

Head of midwifery services, Gillian Duffey, said: "We are delighted. The rating is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of our staff."

The national review of services by the government health advisors, which took place last summer, was the first of its kind and aims to encourage improvement to get all NHS trusts to perform to the standard of the best.

As a result of the survey several improvements have already been made or are currently being made to the maternity services at Maidstone Hospital.

More antenatal classes are now being held and staffing levels are being increased to continue to help



SAFE HANDS: Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust received a 'best performing' ranking

improve the service women receive.

Maidstone and Weald MP Ann Widdecombe welcomed the recent improvements in the standard of care at Maidstone Hospital.

She said: "I went in to Maidstone Hospital over Christmas and it was really very positive and upbeat. The relatives and the patients were happy."

But she added she is against the highly-rated maternity services being transferred to Tunbridge Wells under the proposed changes given the green light by Health Secretary Alan Johnson last month.

Miss Widdecombe said: "Well it would be nice if we could keep it in Maidstone."

"We will only have basic child birth facilities in Maidstone, but if a woman has complications she will then be driven to Tunbridge Wells."

"But what woman about to give birth, in pain and with the worry of complications, wants to go 17 miles on B roads to Tunbridge Wells?"

The Healthcare Commission nationally ranked 38 trusts maternity services as 'best performing', 47 as 'better performing', 32 as 'fair performing' and 31 as 'least well performing'.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

More drivers caught without car insurance

THE number of vehicles seized by police for not having insurance has increased in the last year.

Official police figures have revealed that 379 vehicles were seized across Maidstone in 2007 compared to 239 vehicles in 2006, which police are putting down to its increase in joint operations.

Police have been working with other agencies, including Maidstone council and the DVLA.

Cheap home scheme wins council backing

MAIDSTONE council is putting cash into a new scheme for affordable homes in the county town.

Councillors have agreed to give 'not-for-profit' developers Town and Country Housing Group £650,000 to build a block of 67 flats in Beaconsfield Road, in Tovil.

The site, which overlooks the River Medway will have 67 flats in two apartment blocks that are close to local services and facilities.

Disgraced NHS boss to get £75,000 pay-off

THE shamed chief executive of the NHS trust at the centre of a fatal superbug scandal will receive a £75,000 pay-off.

Rose Gibb resigned ahead of a Healthcare Commission report into two outbreaks of Clostridium difficile, which led to the deaths of at least 90 patients, at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust hospitals.

A trust spokesman confirmed on she had received severance pay.

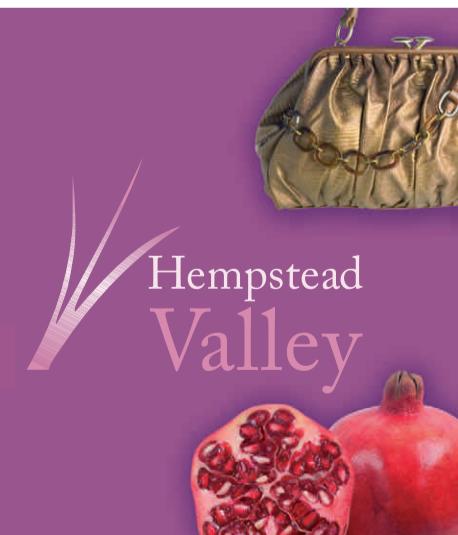
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Any time, any place anywhere - by bus

KCC scheme to give young more freedom

■ BY LAUREN MUMFORD

THOUSANDS of young people have been given greater freedom thanks to a new bus pass which aims to reduce traffic on the roads.

Kent County Council leader Paul Carter was joined by a handful of school children from Maidstone Girls Grammar School to help celebrate the launch of the Kent Freedom Pass.

The scheme is an initiative that allows young people between the ages of 11-16 to travel on any public bus service in Kent anytime, anywhere, making travelling easier and more affordable.

From June, the pass will be available to all school children in Maidstone and Tonbridge and Malling, giving young people independence as well as helping reduce the amount of congestion on the boroughs roads.

Mr Carter said: "The Freedom Pass really empowers young people because they can use their pass to travel in the evenings and at weekends, giving them freedom to access a



ALL ABOARD: Kent County Council leader Paul Carter (centre) at the launch of its new Kent Freedom Pass scheme

wider range of sports and leisure activities. It will also give parents more choice when choosing schools."

KCC is the first authority in the country to introduce the scheme which costs parents just £50 a year and is applied for through their child's school.

Maidstone Girls Grammar School students Abi Mesnard, 14, and Hannah Sewell, 14, said: "Spending £1.50 everyday on a day return to school all adds up. Our parents will be pleased they don't have to drive us into town anymore and now we can go to other places in Kent."

The scheme has been dubbed an "all-round winner" by the cabinet member for environ-

ment, highways and waste Keith Ferrin, who also attended the launch.

The idea for free youth travel originally came from Kent Youth County Council, a non political party organisation made up of 48, 11-18 year olds who all live in the county. The group discuss and propose schemes that benefit Kent's youngsters.

Following a successful trial in Canterbury, Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge, the freedom pass scheme will eventually be rolled out across Kent over the next 18 months - going county wide from June 2009.

For more information about the scheme visit www.kent.gov.uk/kentfreedompass.

Blame lies with Royle, says Fowler

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
under logs, and a receipt for two disc cutters.

Mr Fowler, did not give evidence at the trial, but told cops he was asleep at the time of the robbery and was unaware of the gang's activities.

He blamed car dealer Royle, who ran Wateringbury Car Sales, for implicating him.

Mr Fowler, a father-of-three convicted of fraud in 1992, lives with wife Linda, on the two-acre farm.

Signwriter Keith Borer, 54, from Maidstone was cleared of handling stolen goods.

At the Old Bailey yesterday Royle was sentenced to a minimum of 15 years; Lea Rusha, 35, from Southborough, was also given a 15-year minimum; Jetmir Bucpapa, 26, from Tonbridge, faces deportation after he has served his 15-year minimum; the "inside man" Emir Hysenaj, 28; from Crowborough, was told he would serve a 10-year minimum and Roger Coutts, 30, from Welling, also will serve at least 15 years.

A number of other arrests have been made and a further trial is expected.

Highways Agency holds up decision on M20 terminal

THE council decision on whether controversial plans to build a giant freight terminal gets the go-ahead has been delayed.

The Highways Agency wants to see "more complete and accurate" information on the traffic impact of the proposed 270-acre, road-to-rail depot before Maidstone council approves or denies planning permission.

The developers of Kent International Gateway have proposed a freight interchange complete with large warehousing and offices on a site the size of 100 football pitches on countryside near junction 8 of the M20 - on the outskirts of the picturesque village of Bearsted.

Maidstone council's planning committee was due to come to a decision by February 13, but now the agency, which is part of the Department for Transport, has asked for more information the date will be pushed back.

The planning application already consists of more than 20 documents

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

including a large two volume environmental impact assessment.

Maidstone council's director of operations, Alison Broom, said: "This information will allow the Highways Agency to provide us with a full assessment of the likely impact of the proposal on traffic and roads."

Residents and businesses will also be given a second opportunity to give their comments if the new information from the developers adds substantial details or changes the proposals. More than 3,500 people have already commented on the application.

When the new information has been received, residents can view it along with all the other details on www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk, at the town hall, the council offices in London Road and Tonbridge Road, libraries and from some parish councils.

Grant denies Labour claims

A TORY parliamentary candidate has defended herself after it emerged she used to belong to the Labour Party.

Helen Grant, who was chosen last week as Ann Widdecombe's successor to defend the Maidstone and Weald seat, has denied claims she put herself forward as a Labour council candidate in Croydon.

She said: "I have never been a member of the Croydon Labour Party. I was a member of the Reigate and Banstead branch from mid-2004. People from poor or minority ethnic backgrounds often unthinkingly consider Labour their party, but during my brief flirtation with the Labour Party I found them arrogant, complacent and un-inclusive."

The family lawyer stands to become Kent's and the Conservative's first black female MP.

She added: "When David Cameron became leader of the Conservatives I was completely inspired by his vision of inclusiveness, opportunity and trust in people."

"This led to me join the Conservatives in January 2006, having already resigned from the Labour Party."

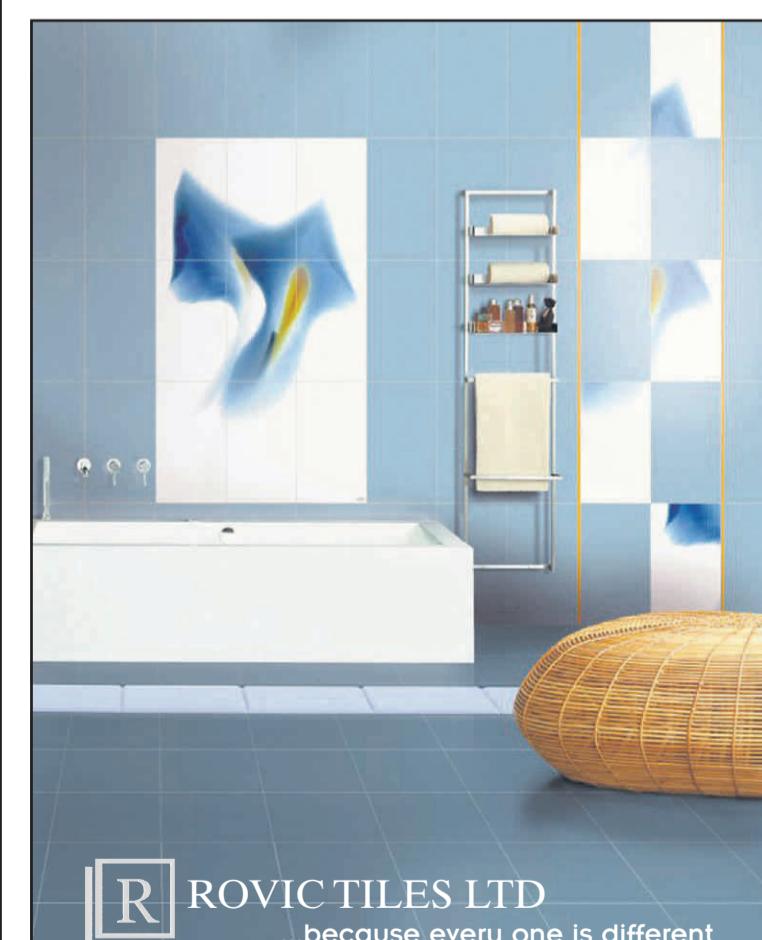
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Elderly have face-to-face meeting with the police

POLICE chiefs visited a care home this week to find out how policing could be improved for the elderly.

Ann Barnes, chair of the Kent Police Authority, and members of Kent police's research team visited the Rosemary Graham Day Care Centre in Somner Walk, Parkwood, to find out what its residents want to make them feel safer.

Ms Barnes said: "It really is so important that we go and find out what people think and feel face-to-face."

£200,000 renovation for old working men's club

A FORMER working men's club is being transformed into a 'comfortable and welcoming' local village pub by a Kent brewer.

Shepherd Neame will spend £200,000 to turn The Ditton Club, a Victorian building, into a pub serving food.

The brewer has owned the property in New Road, which is now undergoing a major facelift, since the 1950s.

The ten-week project started on January 14, with the pub scheduled to open its doors for the first time in April.

New headteacher takes reins at Sutton Valence

A LEADING school has appointed an experienced new headteacher to take it forward.

Craig Gibbs has taken the top job at Sutton Valence Preparatory School to carry on the work of Tony Brooke.

Mr Gibbs was previously headmaster of Spring Grove School at Wye, near Ashford, which achieved an 'outstanding' grading in its most recent Ofsted report.

Mr Brooke has decided to leave Sutton Valence after ten years to take up a new post as head of Glasgow Academy Prep School.

College receives a 'good' report from inspectors

A TOP agricultural college has received a "good" rating from education inspectors.

Hadlow College, which takes students aged 16 and over to study land-based subjects, has welcomed the positive Ofsted report published this week.

The Post 16 Good survey, published following visits to colleges that offer vocational training, stated: "There is a strong emphasis on the development of good practical skills, which supports students in reaching industry levels of competence."

How drivers will pay for rubbish collections

Council set to increase parking fees

■ BY LAUREN MUMFORD

permit increase from £70 to £100 per year.

Mr Harwood said: "Since the Lib Dems took back leadership of Maidstone council, our commitment has been to retain and pay for the weekly refuse collection, which is what the residents said they wanted."

Councillors say extra funds will be used to maintain the current weekly collections and avoid the need to move to fortnightly pick-ups seen in other parts of Kent.

Environmental councillor Tony Harwood said: "The parking charges are quite minimal, with the highest increase being 50p and then others by either 20p or 30p."

"Charges for on-street parking would go up by 25 to 33 per cent depending upon length of stay while evening charges would rise by 50 per cent and the 'up to three hours' tariff is set to go up by 14 per cent."

Businesses could also be hit with a parking

permit increase from £70 to £100 per year.

Mr Harwood said: "Since the Lib Dems took back leadership of Maidstone council, our commitment has been to retain and pay for the weekly refuse collection, which is what the residents said they wanted."

"These small changes to parking tariffs are the only way of doing that without affecting front-line services – I think that is the best thing to do and hope the public of Maidstone feel the same way."

Unfair

But Tory councillor Bruce Pollington has branded the hike-up as unfair on car users, saying: "This is a shameful money-making scheme thrust on motorists."

New research has shown that people living and working in Maidstone are set in their ways and will continue to drive into town



RISING COSTS: Environmental councillor Tony Harwood says that the new parking charges are 'quite minimal'

even if parking fees rise.

According to a poll by Local Opinion, 57 per cent of residents who drive to work have never used or considered using public transport.

It found the three most important factors in persuading car users to use public transport to travel to work was frequency of buses (44 per cent), cheaper fares (43 per cent) and reliability (37 per cent).

If you want to be included in future polls visit www.localopinion.co.uk or call 01732 874073.

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Ann backs book of condolence

POLITICIAN Ann Widdecombe joined war veterans at the Town Hall on Friday to sign a book of condolence for soldiers killed in battle.

The tribute will be presented to 36 Engineer Regiment when they return to Maidstone from an arduous six-month tour of Afghanistan in March.

Councillors voted to open a book of condolence last month as a mark of respect to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Corporal Ivano Violino was killed in war-torn Helmand province last September and Lance Corporal Jake Alderton died in the same region in November.

The Maidstone and Weald MP said: "These soldiers gave their lives for us. It is important people sign this book. It should be full of names."

The black book will be kept on the front desk of the tourist information centre until it is presented to the soldiers.

Members of the public can sign it from Monday to Saturday between 9am and 5pm, and on Sunday between 10am and 4pm.

The regiment is based in Maidstone, but in recent history has spent more time serving abroad than any other in the Army.

A 'Welcome Home' parade is currently being organised by the council.



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STRIKE A LIGHT: Half the street lights in Park Way, Coxheath have been given new energy-efficient bulbs

Street light plan will cut electric bills

■ BY LAUREN MUMFORD

A NEW low-energy bulb is being tested in street lights in the county town in a bid to save millions of pounds of taxpayers' money every year.

Half of the street lighting in Park Way, Coxheath, has had its bulbs switched to a greener lower-energy and cost-effective kind, as part of an experiment by Kent County Council.

It is hoped that if the trial is successful, the new 28-watt bulbs will replace the original 80-watt ones currently found in street lights across the county.

KCC cabinet member for highways Cllr Keith Ferrin said: "Kent would be the first in the country to introduce low-energy bulbs, but this would depend on the outcome of a trial.

"This is new technology. As far as we know, nobody else is trialing it in the UK and we need to be sure it does work."

The switch would reduce Kent's light energy bill from £4.5 million a year to as little as £1.5m, saving the county a huge £3m.

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How to get fit with pole dancing

WOMEN looking to get in shape have been urged to try a fitness craze sweeping the country – pole dancing.

The gravity-defying dancing has long been seen as seedy and sleazy, through its connections with gentlemen's clubs and strip joints.

But it has moved out of the shadows and is being recognised as a performance art and a fitness favourite for thousands of women nationwide – including celebrities like Kelly Brook and Lindsay Lohan.

Jo Roper, of The Goddess School of Pole Dancing, holds classes in Maidstone.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Some parking fines set to increase to £70

A NEW two-tier parking fine system has been given the go-ahead – which could land errant motorists with £70 fines.

Serious parking offences such as parking on a double yellow line will be punished with the new increased penalty.

While more minor offences like vehicles overstay meters or car-park tickets will receive a £50 fine.

This new system is being rolled out across England and Wales from March 31 as part of a government shake-up of regulations under the Traffic Management Act 2004.

In some areas, including Medway, CCTV cameras will be used to catch illegally parked cars.

But Maidstone council has decided not to use the new powers, which have been dubbed 'cyber wardens', and will still use traffic wardens slapping tickets on cars.

A council spokeswoman said: "We are not going to use CCTV and the fine levels mean that some people will pay less."

Both penalties will be reduced by half if motorists pay up within 14 days, just as occurred with the current £60 parking fines.

Park users' group looking for new members to join in

A VOLUNTEER group is looking for new members to help create and maintain a quality park.

Friends of Clare Park all use the Tonbridge Road green space and lend a hand with practical park tasks, as well as giving the council feedback as park users, advising on its management and maintenance, and helping to raise funds for improvements.

Anyone interested in joining the group is invited to its next meeting at Clare Park Bowls Club Pavilion on February 12 at 6.30pm to share ideas and talk about the projects lined up for this year.

Body found in student halls of residence

A STUDENT was found dead in his room at his halls of residence at the University for the Creative Arts after a suspected suicide.

The first-year student, 22, from Lewisham, was found hanging in his room at West Tree Court near the university campus in Maidstone on January 18 at 5.07pm.

A spokesman for UCA said: "We can confirm that a first year student at the University for the Creative Arts in Maidstone was found dead in one of our halls of residence on Friday evening."

The name of the dead man has not yet been made public.

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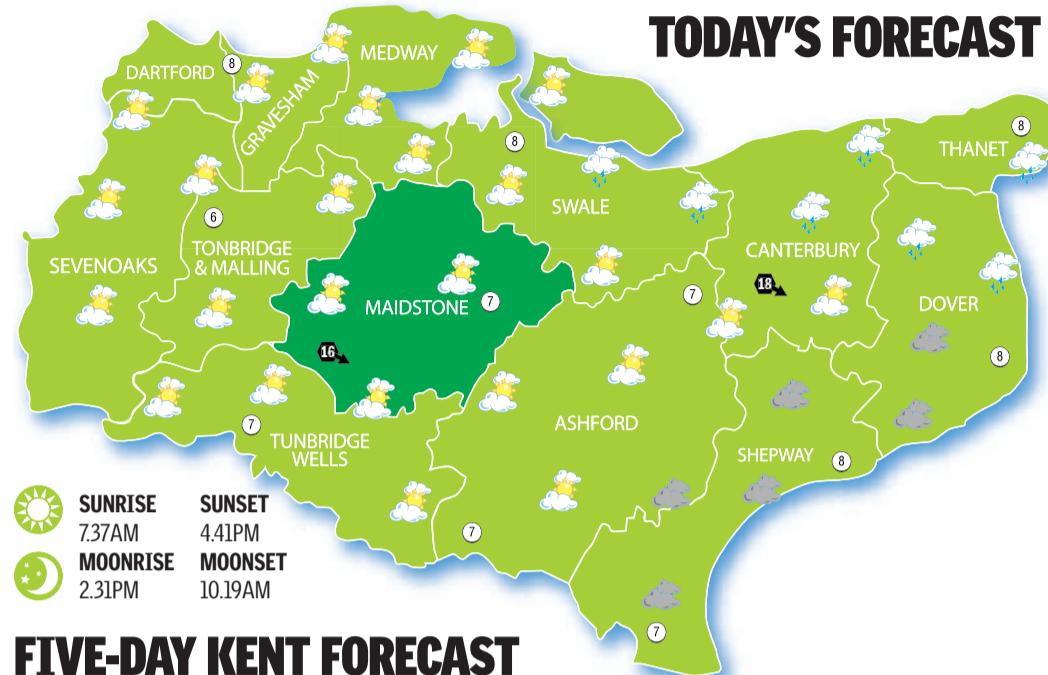
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TODAY'S FORECAST



WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	6:08am	4.8m
	Sunday	7:12am	4.5m
Dover	Saturday	5:17pm	5.1m
	Sunday	6:45pm	4.9m
Dungeness	Saturday	5:27pm	5.9m
	Sunday	6:38pm	5.8m
Ramsgate	Saturday	5:47pm	3.8m
	Sunday	6:22am	3.9m
Sheerness	Saturday	6:31pm	4.5m
	Sunday	7:00am	4.5m
Whitstable	Saturday	6:39pm	4.3m
	Sunday	7:00am	4.4m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	9°C	Madrid	12°C
Athens	15°C	New York	3°C
Barcelona	17°C	Paris	5°C
Beijing	-1°C	Rome	14°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	24°C
Cape Town	24°C	Tenerife	23°C
Cardiff	8°C	Tokyo	6°C
Gibraltar	17°C	Vancouver	2°C
Hong Kong	13°C	Warsaw	2°C
Las Palmas	21°C	Wellington	18°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	7°C	10°C	5°C	4°C	6°C	Gravesend	7°C	9°C	5°C	4°C	7°C
Canterbury	7°C	9°C	5°C	4°C	7°C	Maidstone	7°C	9°C	5°C	4°C	8°C
Chatham	7°C	10°C	5°C	4°C	8°C	Ramsgate	7°C	9°C	5°C	4°C	7°C
Dartford	7°C	9°C	5°C	4°C	7°C	Rochester	7°C	10°C	5°C	4°C	8°C
Dover	7°C	8°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	Sevenoaks	5°C	8°C	4°C	3°C	5°C
Faversham	7°C	10°C	5°C	4°C	8°C	Sittingbourne	7°C	10°C	5°C	4°C	8°C
Folkestone	7°C	8°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	Tonbridge	7°C	9°C	5°C	5°C	7°C
Gillingham	7°C	10°C	5°C	4°C	8°C	Tun Wells	7°C	9°C	5°C	5°C	7°C

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Lions support anti-drugs talk

AN ANTI-drink and drugs campaign kicked off its tour around schools in the borough this week.

The SNAP (Say No And Phone) programme launched at Maidstone Girls Grammar School on Monday, providing children with musical entertainment while delivering its important message.

The presentation also shows children the dangers of getting involved in anti-social behaviour and criminal damage.

The programme will run until February 6 and other schools on the tour sheet include St Simon Stock; Cornwallis; Bower Grove; Swadlincote; Senacre; Maplesden Noakes; Invicta Girls Grammar; Oakwood Grammar; Valley Park and Oldborough.

Maidstone Lions Club is sponsoring the campaign.

Bryan Macarthy, from the Lions Club, said: "Having been involved with SNAP since it started almost 10 years ago, it's a cause which is close to my heart and when we were approached to fund the forthcoming tour we were delighted to be able to help."

"The scheme is not just fun for the pupils, but it also sends out an important message and if we can discourage any of these youngsters from using recreational drugs, then it's all been worth it."

The Lions Club is an international organisation which collects money and distributes it to worthwhile causes.



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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

SIMON LACE



Q & A

The museums and heritage manager took the time to talk to **Lauren Mumford** about his role, the multi-million pound expansion plans for Maidstone Museum, and how the county town could be improved.



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Q Can you tell us about yourself and your role?

A My role within Maidstone council is to provide leadership and direction for the borough's museums and heritage services.

We have three museums; Maidstone Museum & Bentlif Art Gallery, the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regimental Museum and the Tyrwhitt-Drake Museum of Carriages. I have been in this post for almost five years and have tried to provide a new direction for the museums, giving them greater public appeal and making collections more accessible.

I'm 46 and originally from Bolton, but now live in Bearsted, where I have been since 2003, when my family and I moved from west London. We moved here because my wife I wanted more space for our children and Kent's countryside would offer a better quality of life than London.

I was also looking for a new challenge: after 12 years as curator of the Museum of Richmond I wanted to test myself in a bigger institution.

Q What does Maidstone Museum have to offer?

A The Heritage Lottery Fund described the museum as a "treasure trove". The quality of our collections is outstanding and their diversity staggering.

They include: native art from North and South America, the Pacific and Australasia; the finest ceramics collection in the region; the best collection of artefacts from the richest Anglo-Saxon region of England; over 6,000 paintings,

prints and drawings and sculpture by Epstein and Moore; the most important collection of Japanese Edo-period art outside London; a comprehensive record of British flora and fauna and tens of thousands of natural history specimens from Europe and the Far East; medals and memorabilia from the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regimental collection; and 40,000 fossils including the remains of Maidstone's very own dinosaur, the Iguanodon.

Q Can you tell us about the developments proposed for the museum?

A To celebrate our 150th birthday this year we have devised an ambitious scheme which, by 2010, will allow more people to enjoy our amazing collections.

We will extend the museum's east wing and create a more welcoming entrance, preserve the collections in new storage, create more space for the display of hundreds of new exhibits, improve public facilities and reduce the museum's carbon footprint.

The museum is recognised as a family friendly environment where children are encouraged to engage with the exhibits; old galleries have been refurbished and visitor numbers have doubled. The museum's appeal was recognised by Tourism South-East as runner-up in the Best Small Visitor Attraction category at the 2006 Excellence Awards.

With our lottery funding secured we can progress the design of the new extension. We hope work can commence on the new wing in the spring of 2009.

Q What do you consider to be Maidstone's biggest attractions?

A The museums obviously! Seriously though, I think the fact Maidstone can offer a mix of shopping, cultural and heritage facilities is a huge draw and that fact that it is so close to so many transport routes is an advantage too.

Q How could Maidstone be improved?

A We could make more of the river, it is an asset for the town but we largely ignore it.

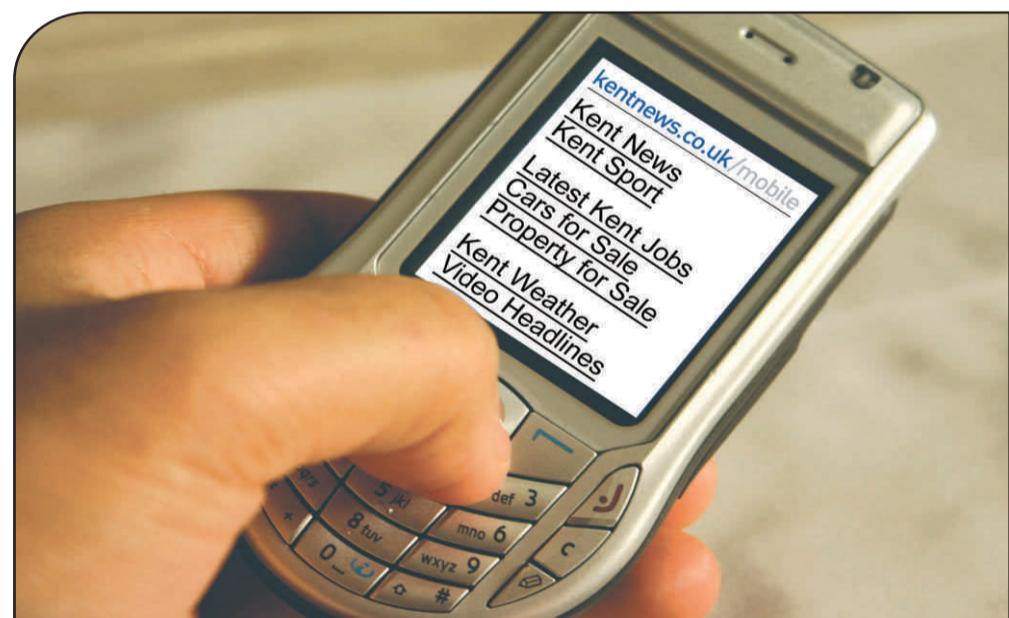
In west London large tracts of the riverside are in regular use by people walking, enjoying a drink or a meal or engaging in some activity on the water. We have little of that here but it wouldn't take much to revitalise the riverside and make it a focus of the town.

We also need more good modern architecture – the museum's new east wing will be one of the few examples in the town centre.

Finally I think a high-speed rail link to London would be in Maidstone's interests. It would provide a quicker commuter link and enable people who work in London to consider Maidstone as a potential home. Their investment would help drive Maidstone's services, facilities and aspirations upwards.

Q What would you say are your greatest achievements?

A If I have achieved anything here it's probably raising the profile of the borough's museums to such an extent that they are now seen as institutions worthy of support!



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Every week, My Last Mistake (based in Maidstone) will post a new live performance of one of their songs



Coldplay's Chris Martin loses his cool with Folkestone photographer Jae Donnelly outside a New York hospital



Businessman Robin Hills talks about business success, doing National Service and a childhood in Ramsgate



Film-maker and youth football coach Ernie Brennan wants to change parents on the touchline. All parents should watch this



Roger de Haan was among those attending the opening of Folkestone University this month by Michael Howard

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...
yourkenttv.co.uk

Brewery logs on to wi-fi technology

■ BY NICK AMES

A STRING of hotels across the county have become the latest to benefit from the wi-fi explosion.

Brewer Shepherd Neame has teamed up with BT Openzone to offer its customers the chance to log-on to the internet without needing to plug their machines into a phone socket.

And it is rolling out the wireless technology – which is automatically detected by built-in modems on laptops – to all 13 of its hotels in the county.

They include sites in Faversham, Canterbury, Ashford, Chatham, Deal, Broadstairs, Maidstone and Whitstable.

Technology

While the technology is not new – wi-fi is now widely deployed by business and residential users as an easy way for multiple computers to get online – the brewer hopes the technology will lure more people to stay at its hotels and then access details on local attractions and services. In addition it allows staff to log-on to help them in their daily duties.

Nigel Bunting, Shepherd Neame's retail director, said: "Having a comprehensive wi-fi network installed across Shepherd Neame hotels was an essential step forward for us.

"The service has been an instant hit, with staff and hotel guests alike. The wi-fi technology has streamlined the running of the hotel,

from reception through to the back office operations."

Wi-fi is a limited range technology ideal for use in locations such as homes or businesses.

For hotel guests, it means for a small fee they can log-on to BT Openzone and within seconds be surfing the web – and checking out sites such as our very own free broadband TV site, www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

Chris Bruce, BT Openzone's general manager, added: "While we have many partnerships with big hotel brands, we are pleased to be working here in Kent with this niche chain.

"We know it is important for them to be able to provide wi-fi access to guests in today's connected market place."

Ring this number and help to foster

FOSTER care agency Family Matters are on the lookout across Kent to find people who want to look after and raise children.

The Folkestone-based agency – featured in this paper last week – is after suitable people from all walks of life to care for children after they lose their parents.

Unfortunately the number we printed last week was incorrect. The correct number to get in touch with the agency is 01303 210029.

Yourkenttv winners

THREE top videos shown on Yourkenttv have won cash prizes for their creators.

Talented Natalie Langley used the Prodigy song Under My Wheels as the soundtrack to a wild mix of stunning visuals and costumes to make Concrete Jungle.

Together with her creative partner Katie Fotis, she uses colour, graphics, effects and visuals to amazing effect.

Natalie won the KOS Media prize of £500 which was up for grabs when our broadband TV station was launched in September.

October's upload winner of £100 was Robert McMillan for his EmCee Flapjack

"music video" – the Biscuit Wrap – which has a suitable urban and gritty feel to complement street level sounds... apparently.

EmCee has continued to film and upload a series of music clips and become something of a cult figure on Yourkenttv.

November's £100 winner was Alexander Roscoe for his Sk8 Medway shoot. It saw the skateboarder performing tricks and stunts on a variety of objects from specially-created ramps and pipes, to a selection of street furniture and steps.

Congratulations to all three of our winners. Take a look at www.yourkenttv.co.uk.



September launch winner was Natalie Langley for Under My Wheels, £500



October winner was Robert McMillan for The Biscuit Wrap, £100



November winner was Alexander Roscoe for SK8 Medway, £100



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Young reporters make headlines at KOS Media

■ BY CHRIS BRITCHER

THE next generation of journalists proved they had what it takes when they came to the offices of this newspaper to see a newsroom in action.

Eleven pupils from St Nicholas School in New Romney – all members of the school's journalist club – came to KOS Media's headquarters to learn about how our papers are compiled and pick up tips on their future careers.

The youngsters, all from year six, got a guided tour of the newsroom, watched how a page is made-up and met some of our sales team.

They also gained a valuable insight into the life of a journalist from senior reporter Gareth Arnold who talked them through his busy week and explained how in this day and age he needs to be able to not just write stories but shoot video too.

And proving they had what it takes to make it in the media, they didn't hesitate to ask the all important questions; such as how much do reporters earn and what scares them?

Happy student Roxanne said: "I learnt that producing a newspaper is all about teamwork, and that everyone works to deadlines. I really enjoyed myself."

Classmate Skye added: "I had a great time and learned that if you work hard you can become an editor at a young age."

And fellow club member Georgia said: "There were lots of people in the office, I only expected there to be a few because you are not a national paper."

They learned about the launch of our award-winning sister paper Kent on Sunday and how our new midweek titles – launched in September – link in to an online offering and our free broadband TV site – www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

The club were accompanied by study sup-

port supervisors Carol Harvey and Irene Hills.

Mrs Hills said: "We all had a fantastic afternoon. We were extremely impressed by the friendly office staff and the willingness from all the staff to work with the children."

"We look forward to visiting again next year."

The club produce a regular newsletter on events at the school and the town, with all the stories written by the children.

They've even had a brush with the stars, interviewing screen legend Sir Donald Sinden,

who lives near Tenterden.

They also make regular trips to help their studies.

An upcoming jaunt will see them travel to London to visit the Houses of Parliament, while previous excursions have seen them given guided tours around the studios of the local BBC TV and radio stations.

You can see the ambitious youngsters being shown round the office online – simply click on to our online website www.yourkenttv.co.uk.



NEWSHOUNDS: Eleven pupils from St Nicholas School in New Romney – all members of the school's journalist club – came to KOS Media's headquarters to learn about our papers

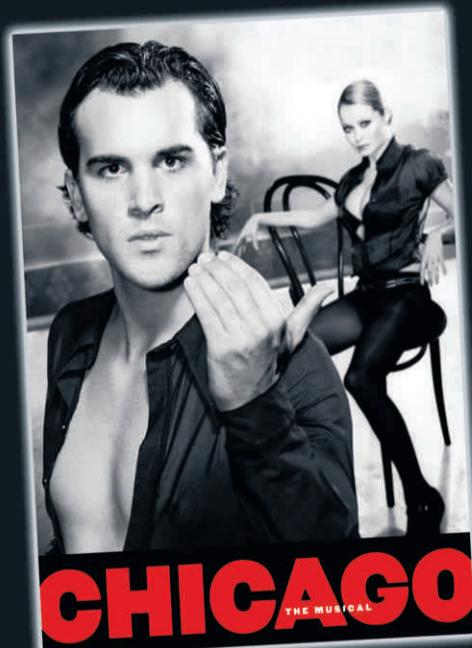
Picture GARETH ARNOLD

VIEW THIS CLIP ON
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 Click online to see St Nicholas School's visit to KOS Media



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Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in and around Maidstone...

Obsession with suntans is a SAD state of affairs

AS someone who has been affected by Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), I am well aware of the feel-good factor that sunshine brings.

January is a depressing month: cold and dark. We have had short daylight hours for such a long time now and most of us have too much month left at the end of the money. But at least the days are getting longer!

Like most things, sunshine is good for you, in moderation. Sunlight is an essential, natural source of vitamin D.

The reason SAD people feel low and depressed and lack energy and motivation is thought to be due to a lack of quality sunlight triggering chemical reactions behind our eyes.

To prevent or minimise SAD there are special lamps you can buy. However, exercise, exposure to daylight around midday in the winter and increasing Omega 3 may be just as effective.

Oils that are rich in Omega 3 are flax seed, hemp and rape-seed oils (that is, ordinary vegetable oil).

If I can afford it, I like to take a winter sunshine break. We need very little exposure to summer sunlight to meet our requirements for vitamin D or the happiness factor – about 10 minutes a day even when dressed. So I do not lie around working on a suntan.

Sun exposure has its dangers. I think we are all aware that it is linked to skin cancer, which is the cause of 2,300 deaths a year in Britain. Many people do not realise that a sunbed tan is just as harmful.

In fact, if your skin has changed colour, that in itself is a sign of damage.

If you walk through our seaside town centres you will see many new businesses have opened in recent years which offer the opportunity to be exposed to high doses of radiation.

I read that these suntan shops might expose you to rays that are 10-15 times stronger than sunlight! Would you put your baby in the microwave for a minute? No.

Generally, I'm pleased to see thriving shops in the towns, but not these ones.

I think sunbeds are bad news for the health of the population. People must chase a suntan

for reasons of reckless vanity. I asked a builder about his tan last summer. His attitude was: "Live fast, die brown".

A curious and deluded approach to a suntan. Dried-out, leathery skin with a red\brown\orange\strange colour is simply not attractive. It looks bad enough on youngsters in their twenties, and by the time you are 40 you are going to look 50.

Sun exposure and cigarette smoking are the two things that really age the skin.

So those who invest in a suntan are paying for premature ageing and increased risk of cancer – nice! They are paying for wrinkles and are a funny colour.

They are paying to look 50 when they are only 40. Perhaps they will also then spend an incredible amount on beauty creams, too. I have no need, of course, as I am a pale goddess!

More information (on tans, not me!) can be found at www.sunsmart.org.uk.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All bloggers are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

GET IN TOUCH...

We want to hear your views



EMAIL: Letters, comments, views (along with your name) to: yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk



TEXT: **MAID** then your message to: 818000 (please remember to include your name)

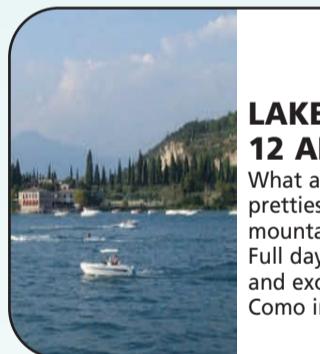
LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Jon Coates**, on **01303 817048** or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Maidstone blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the news editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, Yourmaidstone, Kos Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

* We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion

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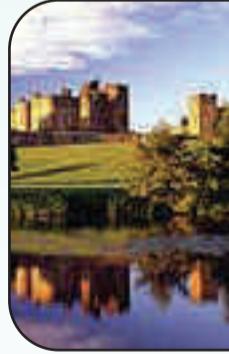


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A packed full tour, visiting Alnwick Castle, the film set for Harry Potter, the Beamish open-air museum, the spectacular North Yorkshire Moors, Whitby, beautiful Robin Hood's Bay, Thirsk and Pickering in "Herriot" Country. 3* superior hotel (HB).



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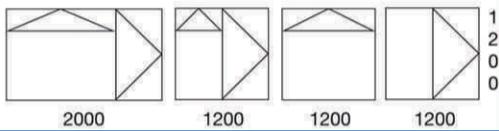
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DOVER - DUNKERQUE FERRIES

Name and design a mascot and WIN £2,000 for your school

EXCLUSIVE Dover-Dunkerque passenger ferry operator Norfolkline, in association with KOS Media, is inviting all Kent primary schools to enter a competition to name a new on-board mascot for their new fleet of three purpose-built ships.

In 2008, Norfolkline plan to introduce a new programme of children's entertainment on board all of their ships on the Dover-Dunkerque route and at certain times of the year the newly-chosen mascot will be on the ships to entertain children and families during the two-hour crossing.

Norfolkline and KOS Media are inviting all primary schools throughout the county to enter.

Entries can be sent in either as a school group, school children independently, but sent in with a counter signature by the form teacher. Three suggestions of names are permitted per entry.

There are no other restrictions and 'Name The Mascot' suggestions

do not necessarily have to have a nautical or French theme.

To accompany all entries, Norfolkline and KOS Media would also like to receive an illustration of the number one choice of name – or all three choices if preferred – along with a written description and the history/ thoughts that have gone into coming up with the idea for a mascot's name.

Travel prizes of return ferry crossings with Norfolkline for a car and up to five passengers on the Dover – Dunkerque route will also be awarded to the runner-up and third-placed entries.

More information about Norfolkline operations can be found at www.norfolkline.com.



NAME THE MASCOT COMPETITION

Send in your entries by completing the form below and then post to:
Marketing Department, KOS Media Ltd, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SR

My/our suggestion for the 'Name The Mascot' competition for Norfolkline is:

1) 2) 3)

Name of school:
Address:
Postcode: Telephone:

Name of class/child/children entering competition:
Signature of Form Teacher:
Print Name of Form Teacher:

Entries should be sent in by February 29, 2008 and the winner and runners-up will be announced by the end of March 2008

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Janice Small
St Mary's Platt
By email

Give gifts to patients, not the nursing staff

I was amazed and disgusted to read the letter from Linda Damon the Marie Curie nurse in last week's paper.

I am also a nurse and worked both Christmas and New Year, but I don't look for, or want, a pat on the back for it!

It is part of the job, we knew that

Asda recognises important work

This year, along with many Marie Curie nursing colleagues

when we took it.

We do it for the patients and for the very good pay and holidays we all get.

And don't cry that nurses are poorly paid, you tell me anywhere else you can get the pay we get.

Yes I imagine you should be grateful to Asda, but they would have been better donating those gifts to the patients who probably could have used/needed them more

than the nurses.

Stewart May
By email

Can you help us help children with cancer?

As a patron of CLIC Sargent, the UK's leading children's cancer charity and someone who loves to travel and experience new cultures, I am writing to encourage your readers to do something amazing in 2008 and help children with cancer.

CLIC Sargent is offering an unforgettable challenge, a 410 kilometre cycle in the shadow of the



awe-inspiring Great Wall of China.

CLIC Sargent provides crucial support for children and young people with cancer, as well as their families.

I support them because I believe that the services they provide really make a real difference to their lives.

By taking up this adventure you'll experience outstanding scenery and culture as well as making new friends along the way.

Moreover, the money you raise will

help CLIC Sargent continue their work with the 10 children and young people diagnosed with cancer every day and their families.

Starting north of Beijing, the cycle from October 10-19 will take you through remote villages and along hilly roads as well as visiting the ancient Ming Tombs.

On the last day of your challenge you can either celebrate by spending time at a school in Beijing or exploring the culture, sound and smells of the China including the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven and the Lama Temple.

So what are you waiting for? Do something amazing in 2008 and have the adventure of a lifetime while helping children with cancer!

For your free information pack log onto www.clicsargent.org.uk/challenges or call 0845 124 1188.

Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen
CLIC Sargent patron
By email

Warm welcome for a fresh political face

I was surprised, but pleased, to read in last week's paper the local Tory party association has chosen Helen Grant as their candidate to succeed Ann Widdecombe as our MP.

While not always agreeing with the politics of Miss Widdecombe, I have always admired her straightforward, honest approach.

I expected the local association to promote a councillor from within the ranks, but it is good to see a fresh face with strong ideas.

Claire Roberts
Maidstone
By email



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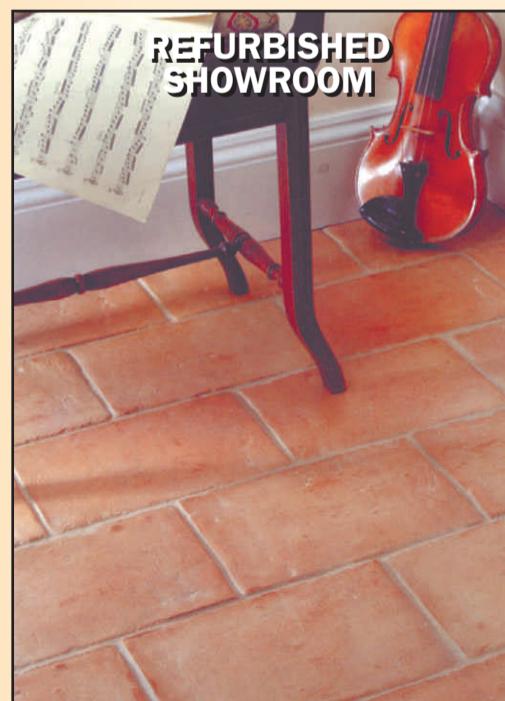
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STILL GOING STRONG: After countless line-up changes, Fairport Convention will be playing in Kent when they celebrate their 40th anniversary

Back on the road again

Folk legends mark milestone with tour

CELEBRATE the 40th anniversary of a music legend when Fairport Convention arrives in Kent.

The band has attracted a huge fan base during its four decades in the business, as well as developing the world famous music festival at Cropredy. The line-up features founder member Simon Nicol on guitar and vocals, bassist Dave Pegg, Chris Leslie on fiddle, mandolin and vocals, violinist Ric Sanders and drummer Gerry Conway.

Over the years there have been many line-up changes, break-ups, reunions and even tragedy, as well as some unforgettable music.

The band began as a four-piece in 1967, which rehearsed at the family home of guitarist Simon Nicol. The house in North London was called Fairport, which inspired the name.

The first line-up lasted for just one gig in a church hall. When a young drummer, Martin Lamble, saw them perform, he decided he could do a much better job and took over the role from Shaun Frater.

Recruiting a female singer, Judy Dyble, helped the band stand out and, after playing at a number of underground venues, they were soon signed up to Island Records. With the addition of an extra male vocalist, the self-titled debut album was released by the end of 1967.

Things were going well, with the



FAIRPORT CONVENTION

Saturday, February 2
Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells

band on the brink of inventing the new genre of folkrock. A French language version of Bob Dylan's If You Gotta Go just missed out on a Top 20 chart slot, but it did lead to an appearance on Top of the Pops.

Then tragedy struck when the band's van crashed, killing Lamble and Jeannie Franklyn, the girlfriend of guitarist Richard Thompson. The devastated survivors almost gave up, but eventually they went back to the studio and recorded the classic album Liege And Lief in 1969.

During the 70s, there were a bewildering number of line-up changes and by the time the group stabilised, Fairport found itself without a record deal.

A farewell tour was staged and the

final outdoor concert was held in the Oxfordshire village of Cropredy, where bass guitarist Dave Pegg lived. The following year, they performed a reunion concert at the same spot and the festival was born.

There were more line-up changes during the 80s and 90s and for a while there were two versions of Fairport running in parallel. But the 21st century has seen a stable and successful band, enjoying popular tours and some new albums released.

Fairport Convention was given the Lifetime Achievement gong at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards in 2002, while album Liege And Lief was voted the best folk album ever. It also won a Gold Disc in 2006 for its continuing sales.

The performance starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £18/£17. Call the box office on 01892 530613/532072 or see www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

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ART 2 LOVE

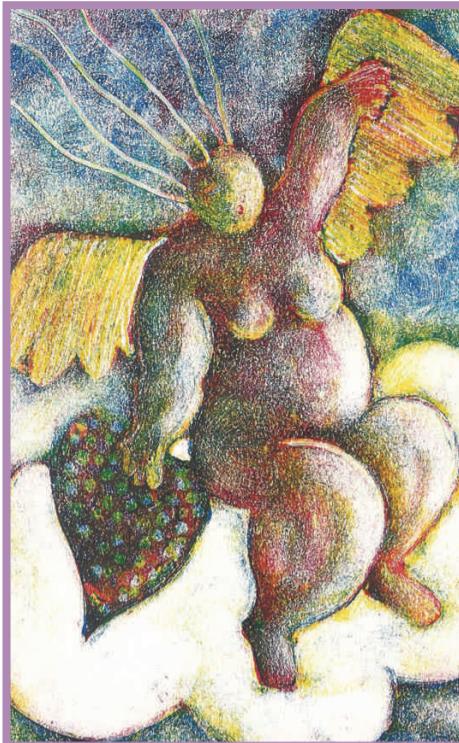
Saturday, February 2, to Saturday, February 23
Liberty Gallery, Kings Hill

GET in the mood for Valentine's Day with an exhibition at Liberty Gallery in Kings Hill.

Art 2 Love features work by two artists, inspired by matters of the heart. Mixed media printmaker Letitia Tunstall will display her linoprints, monotypes and drypoint etchings, with love as the main theme. She trained as a graphic designer and designed book jackets, and eventually set up her own studio in Trottiscliffe, where she teaches printmaking and develops her own work.

Claire Palastanga is a ceramicist whose work has been sold in England and New York, where her pieces have appeared in various style magazines. She graduated from Kent Institute of Art and Design in 2002 with a degree in ceramics. Since then, Claire has set up her own studio in Tonbridge. She will be showing her two-dimensional wall pieces and three-dimensional spiky forms.

There will also be heart-themed jewellery and other original works on sale. The gallery in Liberty Square is open from 9am to 5.30am, Monday to Saturday. Find out more at www.liberty-gallery.com.



STEWBOSS

Monday, February 4
 Zebra Bar, Maidstone

ONE of California's busiest bands is back in town next week, thanks to Maverick @Zebra Bar.

Stewboss played to a sold-out crowd when they last visited Maidstone 18 months ago and the expectations are high for the latest tour.

Heavily influenced by Bruce Springsteen, the band is no tribute act and the spir-

its of the Rolling Stones and Counting Crows are also embraced in the Stewboss sound.

Lead singer Gregg Sarfaty's powerful lyrics comment poetically on the folly of love and all the troubles it can bring. Billed as "American trailer park philosophy at its powerful best", the West Coast country-rock, New Jersey roots-rock is all wrapped up in a great musical stew.

Special guests Dead Rock West are not just into coun-

try and folk influences. With dashes of garage, power pop jangle and rock 'n' roll, there is plenty to keep music fans interested.

The quality of the vocal harmonies, with Cindy Wasserman and singer/guitarist Frank Lee Drennan's voices blending seamlessly, is the band's secret weapon.

The gig starts at 8pm and tickets cost £10 on the night or £8 in advance. Book your ticket in person at the Zebra Bar in King Street or call 01622 744481.

MARK SIMPSON

Saturday, February 2
Mote Hall, Maidstone Leisure Centre


EXPERIENCE the amazing talent of clarinetist Mark Simpson with the Maidstone Symphony Orchestra in concert.

The 18-year-old from Liverpool won the BBC Young Musician of the Year 2006 award and now plays principal clarinet in the National Youth Orchestra. He was also a winner in the Guardian/BBC Proms Young Composer competition in 2006. His compositions have been played by the NYO Sinfonietta and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

At Saturday's concert, he will play Weber's 2nd Clarinet Concerto, under the baton of music director Brian Wright. The performance will open with Carmen Suite by Bizet and close with Rachmaninov's romantic 2nd Symphony.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets are priced from £5 to £20. To book, call the Maidstone Orchestral Society Membership Secretaries on 01622 736392, the Mote Hall box office on 0845 155 2277 or see www.mso.org.uk/tickets



MAIDSTONE LEISURE

Test your detective skills with a mystery

DIG out your deer stalker and get yourself down to El Comedor in High Street, Maidstone, to solve a mystery.

Ascot Garotte, a murder mystery evening, is being held at the restaurant tomorrow. All aspiring Miss Marples and Sherlock Holmes are welcome to investigate the crime.

The evening starts at 7pm for 7.30pm. For more information call 01622 808234.

Everything you need to plan your own wedding

FUTURE brides and grooms can find inspiration for their big day at The Hop Farm this weekend.

The Wedding Extravaganza features everything needed to make a wedding day extra special. It will be held at the Paddock Wood attraction on Sunday and will be open from 10.30am to 4pm.

Admission costs £3. For more details call 01795 844449 or see www.weddingexperience.co.uk.

Find yourself hooked on the 60s at theme night

STEP back in time to enjoy the sights and sounds of the 60s at the Hook and Hatchet Inn next week.

There will be a nostalgic 60s night with Mel Harris at the pub in Church Road, Hucking, at 7pm on Wednesday, February 6. Anyone who goes along in fancy dress could win a prize. Tickets cost £15, including a hot buffet, and places must be booked.

For details call 01622 880830 or see www.hookandhatchet.co.uk.

Contain yourself and prepare for summer

PREPARE for summer early by learning how to create the best patio tubs and containers.

Maidstone Horticultural Society will be holding a meeting at the Baptist Church Hall in Knightrider Street at 7.30pm on Thursday, February 7. The speaker will be Mr G Puddefoot, talking about summer containers.

Admission costs 50p for members and £1 for non-members. For more details call 01622 737323.

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Food that's so good you'll lick your plate clean

■ Pad Thai

FOUND in the High Street, West Malling, Pad Thai has one of the ultimate accolades in its particular style of cuisine.

The ambassador to the UK from Thailand once said its speciality noodles are "probably the best in Europe".

But it has received other – stranger – praise. One customer asked to lick the plate clean while another ordered a takeout to be flown on an aircraft with him on the 7hr 45min flight from London to New York.

Manta Maythachatchaval explained how the restaurant has got its reputation: "The building is one of the oldest in the area and provides a charming backdrop to an impressive array of dishes. These are cooked using organic, free-range ingredients wherever possible, with the herbs coming direct from Thailand.

"The menu can be adjusted to individual requirements including vegetarian preferences.

"My head chef Nui has been with me for 12 years and follows my direction with finesse and commitment. We emphasise consistency and attention to detail with the quality of food combined with our service priority.



This means the ambience will be there.

"Eating at Pad Thai is all about versatility – whether you want a set menu banquet or an inexpensive 'quick plate' lunch."

Their best-selling dish is a signature creation of pad Thai noodles with bean sprouts and egg served with crushed peanuts and accompanied by prawns or chicken – or left on its own.

The restaurant is open from Tuesday to Sunday for lunch from noon until 2.30pm and for dinner from 5.30pm until 10.30pm, although sometimes



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Tradition given a twist

THE Swan Inn, Sutton Valence, is the oldest continually open pub in Britain, having first opened its doors in 1348.

It offers traditional pub food but with some unusual and interesting alternatives alongside, such as Asian infused chicken stir fry.

This was created by a chef at the venue who was inspired on his travels. It is unique to the venue, which prides itself on bringing Pacific Rim cuisine to the heart of Kent.

But the pub is also a great supporter of food produced in Kent and gets much of its ingredients locally.

Maria O'Hara, who has cooked for former Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam and would love to share her dishes with Marco Pierre White, said: "We have quaint premises and always make customers welcome. We offer a cosy intimate restaurant with real burning fires in winter and in summer terraced gardens give stunning views



across the Weald of Kent. Outside dining is a joy when the weather permits.

"The Swan Inn gives a warm, friendly welcome, with great cuisine in a lovely atmosphere. It also boasts a traditional pub setting in a great village surrounded by glorious countryside."

Lunch is offered every day from noon to 3pm and dinner is available from Tuesday to Sunday from 6pm until 9.30pm.

Enjoy a tasty spitroast

IN THE heart of the tree-lined village of Horsmonden is the unusually named Gun and Spitroast, a 16th century coaching inn.

It boasts one of the few remaining Inglenook Spitroasts in the country which allows beef, pork, ham or venison to be cooked slowly over a large apple log fire. These are all included on the a la carte menu which is served in the oak-beamed, candlelit restaurant.

The Gun and Spitroast is a quintessentially English country pub with roaring log fires in winter and a fragrant rose garden for the summer.

Princess Anne was once a guest at the venue which has been in business for five years.

Landlord Jeremy Springgett describes the pub as being: "In a lovely, friendly village."

Choice of menu is a priority at the pub with ambience, staff and service, location and value for money all



important as well.

"Whatever you do – do it well," said Jeremy. "Old English charm, roaring log fires in an oak beamed restaurant is what we offer.

"Our chef uses local ingredients and is always looking for old English recipes such as lovage soup and ham hocks in a mustard sauce."

The pub is open from 11.30am to 11pm Monday to Saturday and on Sunday from noon until 10.30pm.



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THE SAVAGES (15)



The last thing the Savage siblings ever wanted was to look back at their family history. Wendy is a struggling playwright working as a temp and spending her days applying for grants whilst dating her married neighbour. Jon is a neurotic college professor. Then comes the call to say their father is being consumed by dementia and they're the only ones who can help.

IN THE VALLEY OF ELAH (15)



On his first weekend back after serving in Iraq, Mike Deerfield goes missing. Hank Deerfield, a former military man sets out to search for his son with Emily Sanders, a New Mexico police detective. But as the evidence grows, Emily's missing person's case begins to look more and more like foul play.

SYDNEY WHITE (12A)



In a college comedy that puts a modern twist on an age-old story, Sydney White tells the tale of a tomboy freshman who ditches her conniving sisters and finds a new home with a group of very dorky outcasts. Fed up with the way they've all been treated, she's off to wage war against the reigning campus royalty.

Depp's demon performance

■ BY BEN FALK

"I'LL admit it – I have shaved a grown man before," laughs Johnny Depp, who lathers his customers before slitting their throats as the eponymous murderer in new musical *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber Of Fleet Street* which hit the big screen on Friday.

"He is alive," says Johnny of his 'client'. "He's walking round to this day."

The movie – for which he has just scooped a Best Actor Golden Globe and last week an Oscar nomination for the same award – provided a new challenge for the 44-year-old, whose chameleon-like ability to slip into any character and make him original is legendary. But *Sweeney Todd* wasn't about mere acting.

"I had never sung a song," reveals Johnny, who used to play guitar in an 80s band called The Kids.

"I was the guy who would come in and sing the harmony, very quickly. It would be all of three seconds and then I was out."

However, he admits that music was always his first love. "I wanted to be a rock star," he says. "I didn't even think about acting. I was a musician for years before I did a movie."

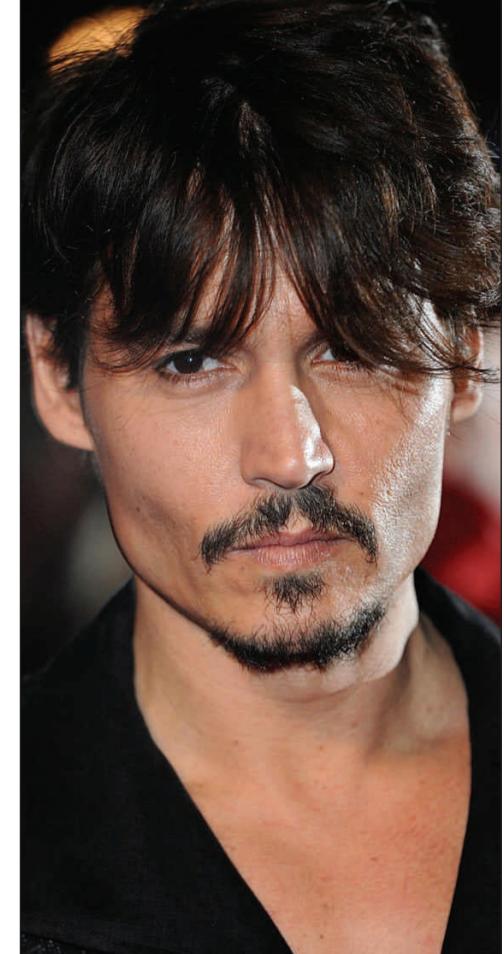
So when long-time collaborator Tim Burton came along asking him to take on *Sweeney* – based on the famously-intricate Stephen Sondheim stage musical – Johnny decided to participate in his own mini-X Factor.

He called ex-bandmate chum Bruce Witkin and went into the studio to record one of the film's songs, on the proviso that Witkin told him truthfully if he had the vocal ability to pull off the entire movie.

Witkin remembers: "I said 'Do you want the good news or the bad news?' Johnny said,

VIEW THIS PREVIEW

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CHAMELEON: Johnny Depp has landed an Oscar nomination as best actor for his role in *Sweeney Todd*

Johnny says *Sweeney* and his Cockney brogue is not based on anyone in particular. The voice, he says, comes "just from spending time over in Britain".

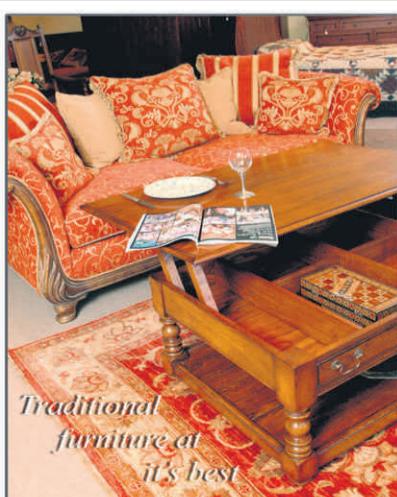
The UK is now only a short hop from his base in France, where he lives with his two children and girlfriend Vanessa Paradis. "I don't hang out with anybody who is famous," he says of his laid-back Gallic existence. "I don't know who is rich or poor or successful and it feels good."

Indeed, he manages to pretty much stay out of the tabloids, relishing his family time.

"I just want to spend as much time with my kids as possible," he says. "Doing simple things like going out to the trampoline and swing set, or just looking in the garden to see how the tomatoes are doing – old man stuff."

SWEENEY TODD
Certificate 18

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■ BY GABRIELLE FAGAN

IMAGINE flying thousands of miles to escape the hassles of normal life and commune with nature in the raw – and ending up instead with noisy neighbours.

They roll back in the early hours, oblivious to those trying to sleep, carry on noisily partying and woe betide anyone calling time on their fun.

That's exactly what I got on safari in Kenya. For two nights outside my tent in the middle of the bush, starting with the regularity of clockwork at 3am I could hear obscene grunts and panting, and heavy bodies lurching about.

A nightmare? No, a dream come true and rather than pulling the duvet over my head and cursing I watched the outrageous antics from the safety of my tent window.

That was because the creatures aping the behaviour of the worst kind of 'chavs' abroad were hippos.

Fat, noisy beasts whose hygiene leaves a lot to be desired – their idea of a spa break is basking in thick mud on the side of the river bank – were frolicking only a few feet away.

Being so close to them was just one of the magical moments on an adventure in the heart of one of the most spectacular game reserves in the world, the Masai Mara in Kenya.

Every year, this National Park welcomes the Great Migration – two million wildebeest, zebra, and gazelle from Tanzania in search of lush grazing.

They join the resident community of other animals, including a star cast known as the Big Five because they were the most coveted by hunters – lion, African elephant, buffalo, black rhino and leopard – and a host of lesser players from hyena to monkeys.

For the first two nights we camped at Governor's Il Moran on the banks of the River Mara in a huge tent with reassuringly solid



LUXURY: Camp facilities are of the highest standard but you are part of the natural environment



Safari so good

'walls' of double-thick canvas. It came complete with electricity, king size bed, crisp cotton sheets, and ensuite bathroom with a Victorian rolltop bath, shower and flushing loo.

There are only 10 tents at this intimate, exclusive sanctuary, which has no fences and blends so smoothly into the environment that the wildlife feels as 'at home' wandering through as paying guests. Guards are on hand at all times to avoid any close encounters of the wrong sort.

While facilities and food at the camp are of the highest 21st century standard, the safari experience is like stepping out of time. Awoken for tea at 6am – sunrise and sunset are the best time to see the animals – we climbed sleepily into an open truck to 'stalk' the game.

Time and again our guide took us almost within touching distance of the game.

Nothing compares with the prized sight of a pride of lions. After hours of scanning the plains, there's a real thrill of achievement when you find them.

Later, our superb three-course dinners in the open air were enlivened by the musical accompaniment of the noises of the bush – croaking bullfrogs, crickets and the far-off cries of hyena.

It was soon time to drive up into the hillside to our next stop. Mara Bushtops is like an eagle's eye with spectacular views across Mara Siana wildlife conservancy, bordering the Masai Mara.

Its accommodation is five-star, with tents on solid wooden floors facing out over the valley. A verandah, complete with a hot tub allows you to 'wallow' in much the same way as animals at the waterhole far below.

FACT FILE: KENYA

Time difference	UK +3 hours
Currency	Shilling (approx 137 to £1)
Capital	Nairobi
Population	31 million
Language	Swahili/English
Religion	Christianity
Climate	Tropical

Holiday details

Gabrielle Fagan was a guest of Kuoni Travel (01306 747 001) which offers tailor-made holidays to Kenya.

The 'Mara in Style' safari combines two of the best tented camps in the Masai Mara – Il Moran and Mara Bushtops including an overnight stopover in the capital Nairobi.

For 2008 prices starts at £1,746, which includes all game drives in the resort.

This package also includes free regional connections from major UK regional airports when flying long-haul with British Airways.

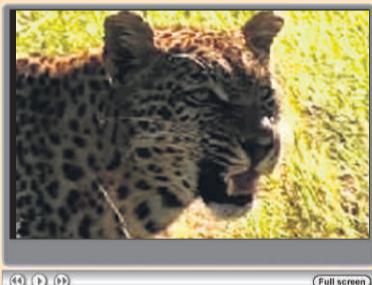
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MAIDSTONE SHOPPING

Keep in touch for less with some great offers

SHOPPERS can make the most of large discounts on phones at Woolworths.

The must-have gadgets have been reduced at the Week Street store in the town centre as part of its winter season sale.

Networks 02, Orange, T-mobile, Virgin and Vodafone are all included in the sale with mobiles ranging from Samsung, Sony Ericsson, Nokia and Motorola for as little as £9.99.

To find out more visit www.woolworths.co.uk or pop into your local store.

Treat yourself to some beautiful jewellery

JEWELLERY lovers can treat themselves to quality items at reduced prices at a top town centre store.

Beaverbrooks in Fremlyn Walk has hundreds of pounds off stunning items of jewellery in its winter season sale.

There's something for everyone with diamond, platinum, silver, white and yellow gold rings, necklaces, earrings and bracelets all included in the offer.

For more information see in store or visit www.beaverbrooks.co.uk

Free gift for shoppers who spend at Clarins

SHOPPERS have been invited to head to one of the biggest department stores in town for an exclusive make-up offer.

Clarins at House of Fraser in Fremlyn Walk shopping centre in Maidstone are giving all customers at its counter a special free gift with their purchases.

This fabulous offer ends on Saturday, February 9. For details see www.fremlinwalk.co.uk or see in store for details.

Pack it in with cheap deals on luggage at BHS

SHOPPERS getting ready for winter holidays are invited to the BHS half-price luggage sale.

Cases start from as little as £10 with styles and brands running from Eva luggage, Abs hard shell trolley cases and Oakley trolley cases. There is a selection of sizes from small holdalls going up to small, medium, large and extra large cases.

For more details see in store at the The Mall Chequers or visit www.bhs.co.uk.

Feed your loved one with delicious gifts

MAKE Valentine's Day extra special with an aphrodisiac dessert created by a 16th century Franciscan monk.

A blend of eggs, Marsala wine and sugar, Zabajone al Moscato, is just one of the treats on offer at Carluccio's in Tunbridge Wells and Bluewater.

Other gift ideas include single stem chocolate red roses at £2.95 each, or bouquets for £32.95 per dozen.

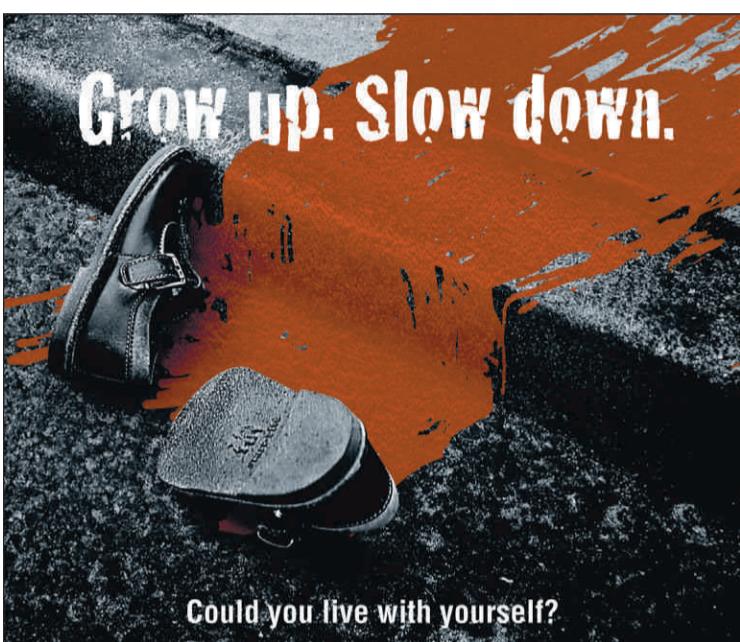
The luxurious Valentine's hamper for two costs £50. Find out more at www.carluccios.com.

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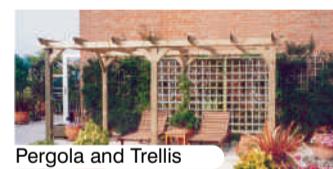


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SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

No 21

Can you spot the five differences between these two pictures of a street in Gillingham?

Answers to all of this week's **timeout** questions can be found on our website



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YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

IT'S better to trust your intuition than consult with friends. This will be a little scary at first, but it will also prove rewarding. Keep your thoughts to yourself between now and mid-February. A romance that fell by the wayside could come roaring back to life again in February.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

YOUR religious, political, or philosophical beliefs are about to undergo a serious overhaul. You're starting to question the ideals with which you were raised. Talks with your boss could prove unproductive. The two of you will be working at cross purposes over the next three weeks.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

DAILY life is about to undergo a transformation. Although this will force you to relinquish mainstream society, it will benefit you. It may be time to reconsider certain arrangements. You've been doing the lion's share of the work lately. Move to adjust the balance of a relationship.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

YOU could be trusted with secret information over the next few days. It's important to stay silent about these matters. Don't make any decisions regarding moving for the next three weeks, unless you plan to renew an existing lease. Be assertive in a relationship. You won't be sorry.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

YOUR personal objectives are very different from what they were a few months ago. Career goals are less important than close relationships. Getting closer to your nearest and dearest gives you a profound sense of contentment. Move forward with a stalled domestic project.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

A NEW interest could take you down some interesting paths over the next few years. Finding sexual fulfilment will become another priority. A political or religious figure could prompt you to revise your ideas about a philosophical matter and inspire you to challenge the status quo.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

AN overwhelming desire for romance and creativity could prompt you to make changes. There's no need to rush into anything; you should lay your plans with care and consider all the ins and outs of what you have in mind as they are bound to affect those nearest to you.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

YOU'LL need to be more resourceful regarding money. Cash won't come in as easily as it has during the past few years. That's fine; you're not wasteful by nature. Still, this would be a good time to explore ways to adopt more environmentally-friendly ways.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

AN increased need to succeed could prompt you to work harder and develop your leadership skills. Certain friendships will undergo changes between now and mid-February. Wasting time on people who don't have your best interests at heart is becoming a bit of a bore.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

POWER struggles can emerge in close relationships. You're no longer willing to take a back seat. Similarly, people who feel they have been overshadowed by you will challenge your authority. Although it will be difficult to change these partnerships, this shift will prove rewarding.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

IT'S time to break away from a restrictive emotional bond. You won't have to relinquish relationships altogether. You just need to claim a measure of independence. A lost love could return. Before you revert to old ways, sit and talk. You'll soon see very little has changed.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

YOUR self image will undergo a radical change over the next few years. It may be necessary to alter your budget a bit. Cutting back on expensive luxuries will enable you to work less and play more. This is a good week to begin a brisk exercise regimen.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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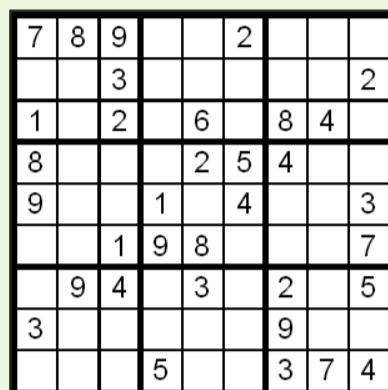
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No21

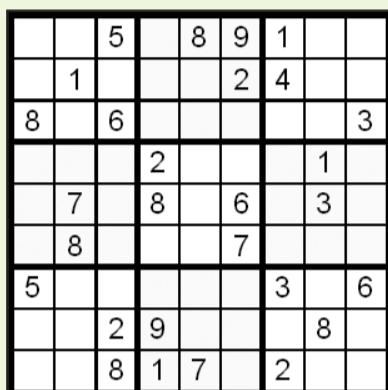
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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

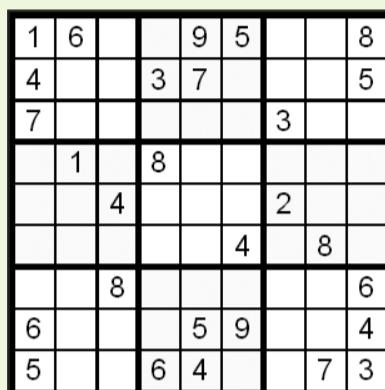
EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Literally it is inspired when lively (8)
- 6 Yellow church, capital (6)
- 9 Shutter (6)
- 10 Holiness of another saint going round court with young beginner (8)
- 11 Back command to start at the other end (7,5)
- 12 Buffalo is in good French surroundings (5)
- 14 In an unfailing way of course (9)
- 17 Worship a tandoori recipe (9)
- 19 Exhausted writer gets in the way (5)
- 21 He studies underground movements (12)
- 24 Gives our revised version that's injurious (8)
- 25 Understand revolutionary will become furious (3,3)
- 26 Idiot went round one lake being faintly illuminated (6)
- 27 Signify period concurrently (8)

DOWN

- 2 Fortune made by carpet manufacturer (4)
- 3 Lake formed when river rose dangerously (9)
- 4 The right quartet inside flourish (6)
- 5 Merit of French comic verse (7)
- 6 Harmony, nothing else, in musical composition (8)
- 7 Revolutionary palindrome (5)
- 8 Not Dad's native country? (10)
- 12 Moderately intellectual in second line below the centre (10)
- 15 I'm one undergoing treatment and not willing to wait (9)
- 16 Was very conspicuous and refused to yield (5,3)
- 18 No positive amount coming from furry beast (7)
- 20 Seat is adjusted for afternoon nap (6)
- 22 Charming time? (5)
- 23 Some proper method in producing hairdo (4)

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QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

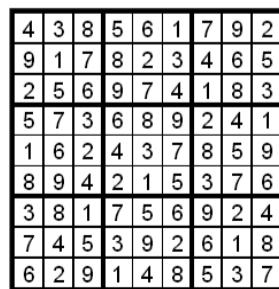
- 1 Break in a journey (8)
- 6 Boil (6)
- 9 Of the stars (6)
- 10 Thin film (8)
- 11 Pay (12)
- 13 Bow-legged (5)
- 14 Timer (9)
- 17 Part of speech (9)
- 19 Impure quartz (5)
- 21 Joblessness (12)
- 24 Retaliatory (8)
- 25 Entice (4,2)
- 26 Eerie (6)
- 27 Long-winded (8)

DOWN

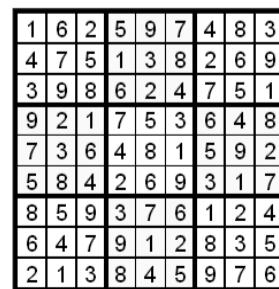
- 2 Shot (anag.) (4)
- 3 Game-bird (9)
- 4 Loudness (6)
- 5 Cameron (anag.) (7)
- 6 Brown sugar (8)
- 7 Sign of omission (5)
- 8 Compliance (10)
- 12 No runs scored off six balls (6,4)
- 15 Evening (9)
- 16 Dull the mind (8)
- 18 Sea-traveller (7)
- 20 Pandemonium (6)
- 22 Skin disease (5)
- 23 Fool (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

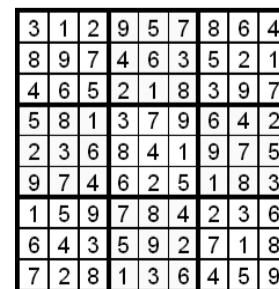
EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE No 19: 1) Seagull missing 2) Jet ski rider gone 3) Child no longer with woman 4) Man missing from boat 5) Word 'Beware' erased from sign

CRYPTIC SOLUTIONS No20

ACROSS: 1 Griddle 5 Absence 9 Skip 10 Disenchant 12 Angelica 13 Anchor 14 Steady income 17 Hold the reins 21 Oppugn 23 Icebound 24 High priest 25 Rime 26 Degrade 27 Gymnast. **DOWN:** 2 Raking 3 Depressed 4 Luddite 6 Bengali 7 Ethic 8 Consommé 11 Standardise 15 Cosmotron 16 Comprise 18 Hundred 19 Ineptly 20 Animus 22 Usher.

QUICK SOLUTIONS No21

ACROSS: 1 Stopover 6 Decoat 9 Astral 10 Membrane 11 Remuneration 13 Bandy 14 Metronome 17 Adjective 19 Agate 21 Unemployment 24 Avenging 25 Lead on 26 Creepy 27 Rambling. **DOWN:** 2 Tosh 3 Partridge 4 Volume 5 Romance 6 Demerara 7 Caret 8 Conformity 12 Maiden over 15 Nightfall 16 Stultify 18 Voyager 20 Bedlam 22 Mange 23 Goon.

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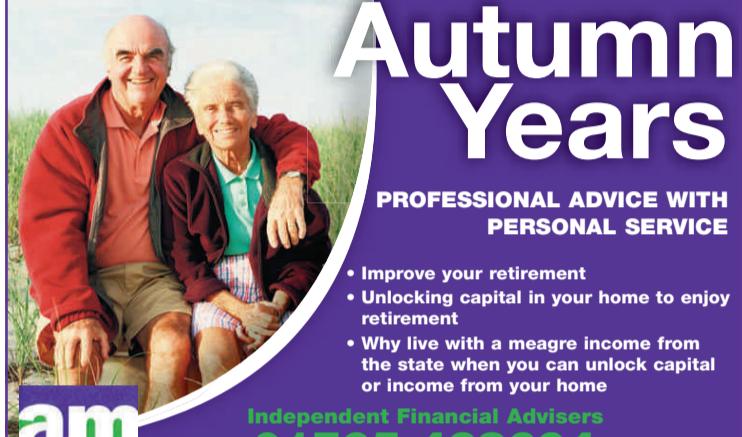
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yourmaidstone television

PICK OF THE WEEKEND

BBC ONE

SATURDAY: CASUALTY (8.25pm): Long-running hospital drama sees Ruth hit a crisis after she makes a mistake and the team find out.

SUNDAY: A QUESTION OF SPORT (7pm): Ryan Sidebottom, James McFadden, Jessica Ennis and Sean Long line up alongside Matt Dawson and Colin Jackson.

BBC TWO

SATURDAY: TEN POUND POMS (8.10PM): Fascinating look at the stories behind those who emigrated to Australia under the Assisted Passage Scheme – some of which resulted in life-long happiness, for others despair.

SUNDAY: AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 GARDENS (9PM): Monty Don visits Australia and New Zealand in a jaunt to find the most inspiring gardens.

ITV

SATURDAY: PRIMEVAL (7pm): Sinister creatures from the future emerge as the team investigate a missing teenage boy, dragged into a flooded drain.

SUNDAY: KINGDOM (9.15PM): Stephen Fry stars in this gentle drama. With his brother Simon now returned, he quickly proves a handful as he embarks on an affair with the wife of the cricket team's captain.

4

SATURDAY: GRAND DESIGNS (7.15pm): The new series continues as it follows householders on a mission to re-design and re-decorate their homes.

SUNDAY: TIME TEAM (5.50PM): Tony Robinson presents the archaeological show which today investigates some Roman remains discovered in the Cambridgeshire town of Stilton.

five

SATURDAY: NEVERENDING STORY III: RETURN TO FANTASIA (4.45pm): Third instalment in the popular children's fantasy saga sees a youngster being bullied take refuge in the school library – only to find a book that magically transports him to the world of Fantasia.

SUNDAY: LORDS OF DOCTOWN (7pm): Movie drama examining the rise and fall of the skateboarding craze which gripped California in the 1970s and catapulted its stars into the international arena.

Amanda judges time is right to get out of Africa

■ BY BEN FALK

LAST time we heard about Amanda Holden, the actress had discovered a dead body in the woods while she was out on a run.

It was in November and the star was out for a jog with her personal trainer when they happened across an unfortunate soul who had hanged himself from a tree.

"Can I just say, when I found the dead body, the papers said I was 39 and I'm 36!" she says. "I was more traumatised by the fact they got my age wrong than the fact I found a stiff."

"I'm so terrible, because obviously someone did lose their loved one and I don't mean to be flippant."

"I did say I could take over from Amanda Burton in Silent Witness now, because I wasn't fazed by it, purely because I didn't think it was real."

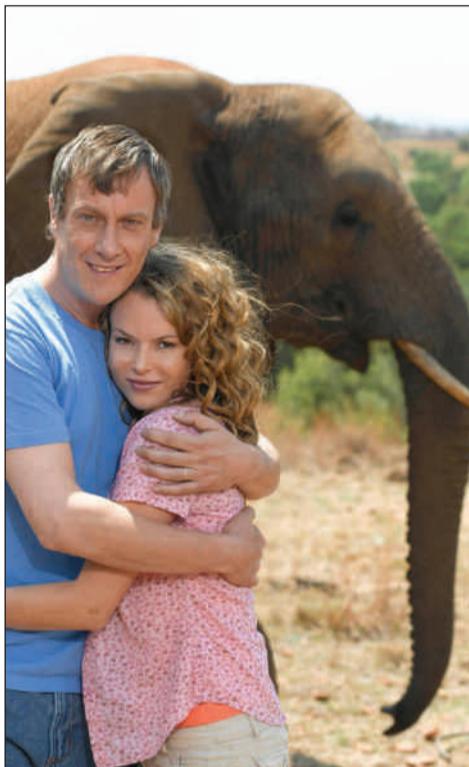
"It was awful, but not as traumatising as it could have been."

At the moment she is in gruelling training for this year's London Marathon. "I won't be like Jade Goody," she reveals. "I am training three or four times a week. I'm knackered. I went out this morning. It's good though, because you can eat loads of cake."

It's a typical Amanda response – self-deprecating, witty, honest.

Whatever you may think of her past tabloid travails (though that stuff has all settled down now she is happily ensconced with beau Chris Hughes and baby Lexi), she's never less than cheerily candid, an increasing rarity amongst celebs.

That's why she has to actively stop herself when asked about her exit from Wild At Heart, the third series of which is now underway on ITV1.



WILD AT HEART: Amanda Holden is set to bid farewell to co-star Stephen Tompkinson in the hit ITV1 drama

"To be honest, it wasn't," she admits. "Lexi is nearly two now and it got to the point where I couldn't take her out of the country for six months of the year. It's not fair on my family, it's not really fair on her."

"She was a babe in arms last year, so I had her on set all the time. But she's inherited the noisy gene from her mother and she's not really quiet on set, so we both got told off a lot for speaking. She's walking around and there's a lot of poo and creepy-crawlies, so it's not really the best environment for her."

Nonetheless, shooting her final scenes ended up being one of Amanda's best experiences working on the show.

"It was brilliantly exciting, because it's all very action-packed. I felt like GI Jane, because it was physical and with lots of screaming," she explains.

"It was an emotional day, but it passed and the people that I loved there I'll stay in contact with, so I haven't lost anything really."

Is there a chance she will come back? "I did have lunch with the producer who is trying to make me come back!" she laughs. "So that's all I'll say. He can't afford me. Now I'm working for the Cowell, my expectations are high."

She confirms she is back alongside Simon Cowell as a judge for the next series of Britain's Got Talent, which is set to begin filming this month and transmit later in the year.

"I'm loving the light entertainment side of things at the moment," she says. "We start filming for three months, going round the country, auditioning."

That said, she is only signing up for one series at a time, partly so that she can try and combine it with acting and her home life (she reveals that 2008 "will be" the year she finally gets married) and partly so she can focus her energy on the Marathon, which she is doing on behalf of the Born Free Foundation, of which she is a patron.

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Who's top of our hit parade?

Could you B our next video star?

THIS week the music page is brought to you by the letter B, specifically Graham B, who has uploaded his latest musical recommendation.

The track-suited taste maker explains how his auditory choices are limited by the fact he earns £5.50 an hour, but this doesn't stop him going absolutely mental to an early 90s remix of Sesame Street.

We hope to hear more of Graham's favourites over the coming weeks.

Also gracing Yourkentv this week is My Last Mistake's tour diary. The Maidstone duo perform a stripped down version of a new song from what may be the bedroom of a Travel Lodge.

The band promise more to come as they work their way round the UK. All of which means you should bookmark www.yourkentv.co.uk today for the best in local music.

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LIVE AND LOUD



INDIE CLASSIC: Dancing in the disco bumper to bumper... wait a minute, where's me jumper? We've all been there, now there's another chance to see Sultans of Ping FC perform their pop classic.



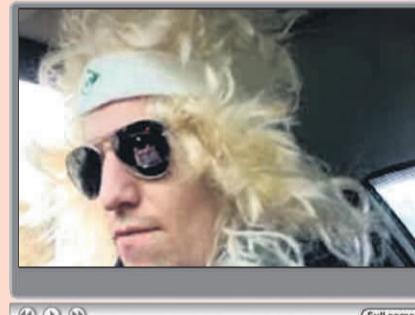
REUNION: Carter the Unstoppable Sex Machine, or Carter USM for short, performed at the Brixton Academy at a reunion gig late last year. Don't watch if you have epilepsy.



SHADY: Indie band Hazy Shade perform their song Full Circle on TV show Lads' Night Inn. We haven't seen the show either, but check out the band at www.myspace.com/hazyshadefband.



LIVE: Every week, Maidstone's My Last Mistake will be posting a new live performance of one of their songs. Check out their MySpace page www.myspace.com/mylastmistakeUK.



OUR OWN JIMMY SAVILLE: He has the tracksuits, the headband and the questionable taste in music... Could Graham B be the Jimmy Saville for the new millennium?



ANTHEM: Pop rock band D-Finitive on stage at Ashford's Festival in the Park last year performing Elmo Anthem. Another reference to Sesame Street? What is going on?



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BIRTHS

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Joshua David born on 6th December 2007, weighing 7lb 8oz. Son to Matthew and Helena in Ramsgate.

BOND

Oliver Peter Frederick Bond born on 10th January 2008, weighing 7lb 12oz. Son to Ian and Sarah Bond, and brother to Grace, in Staplehurst.

BOYNTON

Zoe and Will Boynton of Ramsgate celebrate the birth of their son Cadan Rhys Boynton on 13th January 2008.

CALLOW

Ruby Sue Callow born on 16th January 2008 at Pembury Hospital weighing 5lb 15oz. Daughter to Tom and Lisa.

CHADWICK

Billy Ray Chadwick born on 8th January 2008, weighing 6lb 10oz. Son to Dean Chadwick and Amy Bates in Maidstone.

COX

Tiana Rose born on 15th January 2008, weighing 9lbs 7oz. Daughter to Gordon and Christina in Ramsgate.

DRYDEN

Finley Charles born on 23rd December 2007, weighing 7lb 1oz. Son to Garry and Racheal in Margate.

FAIRBURN

Daniel and Louisa of Maidstone celebrate the birth of their son Charlie Fairburn. Born on the 22nd December 2007 weighing 8lb 10oz at Maidstone Hospital.

FLETCHER

Colin and Alanna Fletcher of Sittingbourne celebrate the birth of their son Thomas Andrew on 5th January 2008.

HARPER

James and Anna Harper of Paddock Wood are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Madeleine Jo Harper, weighing 6lb 7oz, on 8th January 2008.

HOWARD

Annika and Mark of Whitstable are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful baby girl Elva, born on 7th December 2007.

HUMPHREY

Keelan Humphrey born on 13th January 2008, weighing 5lb 15oz. Son to Gareth and Hayley of Tunbridge Wells.

HUYTON

Zac Dylan born on the 19th December 2007 weighing 4lb 6oz. Son to Gareth and Melanie of Lydd, brother to Kaitlin.

ILES

Steve and Sally of Chartham are very pleased and proud to announce the birth of their son, Logan Sebastian Iles, on 19th December 2007. A new baby brother for Hannah, Luke, Ethan and Holly.

JANES

Logan Marshall born on 28th December 2007, weighing 8lb 3oz. Son to Zak Smith and Megan Janes in Herne Bay. Mummy and Daddys special little angel.

JOHNSON

Romeo Anthony David born on 8th January 2008, weighing 7lb 12oz. Son to Kim and Anthony in Ramsgate. Nephew to Gabrielle, Michael, Donna, Shaun, Brenden and Glenn.

KIMBER

Marilyn and Derrick Kimber of Maidstone celebrate the birth of their daughter Natasha Kathleen on 8th January 2008.

KNOWLES

Melody and Gareth Knowles celebrate the birth of their son Benjamin Victor Knowles on the 6th January 2008, brother to Aidan.

LAMPORT

Lucy Hickey and Andrew Lamport of Maidstone celebrate the birth of their son Bradley Christopher Lamport on 14th January 2008.

LASKEY

Donna and Mike Laskey of Cliftonville celebrate the birth of their son Thomas Daniel on 10th January 2008.

LEVESCONTE

Micky and Sam are proud to announce the arrival of their beautiful daughter Brooke Levesconte born on 18th January 2008 at 12.12am weighing 7lb 13oz.

NEAL

Jack George Neal born on 20th December 2007, weighing 6lb 1oz. Son to Jamie and Sarah in Aylesford.

RELF

Darrel and Danni are pleased to announce the birth of their son "Louis Michael Alan Relf" Born 08th January 2008, weighing 8lb 2oz. A little brother to William.

RUSHBROOK

Grace born at home on 9th January 2008, weighing 8lb 3oz. Daughter to Steve and Nicola in Maidstone.

SHARPE

Benjamin Michael Sharpe born on 18th January 2008, weighing 9lb 2oz. Son to Justin and Melanie Sharpe of Tonbridge.

SHAW

Congratulations to Stuart Shaw and Carolyn Mallon on the birth of their beautiful daughter Abigail Joanne Shaw. Born on 9th January 2008.

SQUIRE

Andrew and Rosaria are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Sofia, born on 10th January 2008 weighing 7lb 2oz. A little sister for Natalia.

STRATTEN

Jonathan and Jennifer Stratton of Wadhurst celebrate the birth of their daughter Esther Lily Margaret Stratton on 26th December 2007.

THOMPSON

Richard and Tanja Thompson of Ramsgate celebrate the birth of their son Milan James on 7th January 2008. First grandchild for Jackie and Roger Thompson.

TRICE

Alfie born on 8th January 2008, weighing 7lb 9oz. Son to Becky and David in Margate.

TYLER

Malachi Frederick John Tyler born on 4th January 2008, weighing 10lb 3oz. Son to Graham and Emma Tyler of Tunbridge Wells and a baby brother for Tom, David, Kirsty, Zechariah, Samuel and Ayesha.

WATERS

Benjamin Hadley born on 9th January 2008, weighing 7lb 4oz. Son to Scott and Jane Waters in Ramsgate.

WEBSTER

Thomas Frederick Webster born on 7th January 2008, aged 51. Funeral service at All Saints Church Loose at 12 noon on Wednesday 30th January.

WHITTLE

Jenny and David Whittle of Bearsted celebrate the birth of their daughter Katherine Mary Claire Whittle, on 15th January 2008 at Pembury Hospital weighing 7lb 8oz.

DEATHS

BALL

Henry Frederick Ball of East Malling passed away peacefully after a short illness on 20th January 2008, aged 73.

STRATTEN

William Edward Baxter passed away peacefully, in his sleep, at his home in Herne Bay. A loving dad, grandad and great grandad who will be very sadly missed, not only by the family but all who knew him. The funeral was held on January 24th at Christchurch, Herne Bay.

BAXTER

Gladys Bennett formerly of Dargate passed away peacefully on 16th January in Faversham aged 84.

BILBROUGH

Henry George Bilbrough of Yalding passed away on 17th January 2008. Enquiries to Doves Funerals, Maidstone 01622 688662.

TYLER

Norman re-enacted at Canterbury Castle on 21st January 2008.

BUCKINGAHAM

Margaret Buckingham of Margate died peacefully on 10th January 2008 aged 91. "A true gentleman and friend to so many."

Funeral service at Thanet Crematorium at 1.20 p.m. on 23rd January.

BURCH

Peter Alan Burch passed away suddenly on 14th January 2008, aged 51. Funeral service at All Saints Church Loose at 12 noon on Wednesday 30th January.

COLLINS

Violet Collins, of East Farleigh, passed away on 17th January 2008, aged 93. Sadly missed by all the family. There will be a memorial service at East Farleigh Church on Friday 1st February at 2pm to celebrate her life, all who knew her are welcome.

EAGLETON

David John (Dave) died peacefully at home on 14th January 2008. Funeral Service at Maidstone Crematorium at 2.45 pm on 29th January 2008.

MINTO

Daphne Joan Minto of Maidstone, formerly of Lowestoft in Suffolk, died peacefully on 16th January 2008, aged 79. Donations gratefully accepted for The Heart of Kent Hospice.

PAGE

Poppy Louise Page sadly taken from us whilst coming into this world on 15th January 2008. Beautiful daughter of Stuart and Vicki and sister to Lily. Funeral to take place at Barham Crematorium on Monday 4th February at 10.00 am. A celebration - no black please.

PLAYFORD

Mark Playford and family are sad to announce the passing of Mary Jean on the 11th January 2008.

ROBB

Peter Robb of Chatham died peacefully on January 12th 2008, aged 76. Funeral service at St. Augustines Church, Rock Avenue, Gillingham at 2.15pm on Monday 28th January.

SELDON

Gerard Arthur ("Gerry") Seldon died peacefully at Sevenoaks Hospital on the 15th January 2008. Memorial Celebration and Thanksgiving for his life at Chevening Church on Friday 1st February at 12 noon. No Flowers but donations to Hospice in the Weald or Friends of Sevenoaks Hospital.

VANNS

Wendy (77) Sadly passed away 21st January 2008 at Kent and Sussex Hospital will be greatly missed by family and many friends.

WILLIAMSON

Jill died suddenly at home on 13th January 2008 aged 49. Service at Thanet Crematorium 2pm on 30th January 2008. Flowers to Gores Funeral Directors Margate.

WRIGHT

Doreen (Dotty) Wright. Former head of English at William Gibbs and Queen Elizabeth Schools passed away on 17 January 2008 after a short illness. Funeral will be held at Thanet Crematorium on Wednesday 30 January 2008 at 12 noon. Family flowers only please. Donations can be made to the Stroke Association care of Beltinge and District Funeral Services.

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Community TV

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The Your Kent TV website features a variety of video content. The main page includes sections for Arts & Leisure (e.g., Flying Kitchen, Arts & Leisure), Business bites, Todays Favourites, and Hobbies. Each video thumbnail includes a brief description, rating, and upload date. The website is designed with a clean, modern layout and includes a search bar and navigation links for Local & National News, Local Jobs, Local Cars, and Local Property.

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PROPERTY NEWS

Hayle Mill scheme proves a success

MORE than a third of properties at the Hayle Mill project in Maidstone have been sold and developer PJ Livesey is forecasting a healthy 2008.

The mill conversion features a Grade-II listed building as well as new homes, and is in the Loose Valley conservation area.

The mill itself is in the process of being converted into one, two and three-bedroom homes, which include a mixture of mews cottages, houses and apartments.

The complex sits alongside a stream and a large mill pond and is close to the centre of the town.

Sales manager Colette Gannon said: "These are picturesque properties and because there are such a small number of them they have attracted a lot of interest.

"With reference to the converted properties, each is designed to maximise the potential of the historic buildings by utilising original features to present prospective buyers with an original 'one off' opportunity."

Prices at Hayle Mill start at £202,950.

Click on to insure your home abroad

UK RESIDENTS are increasingly buying homes abroad, either as holiday venues or places to live in after retirement.

With affordable housing prices and agreeable climates, countries such as France and Spain have become popular second home destinations.

But as budget airlines expand their routes and make travel to places further afield easier and cheaper, some less well known places are seeing investment from these shores.

To allow for this www.protection-insurance.com, a specialist website has increased its holiday home insurance policy and now covers 44 countries. Recent additions include Bulgaria, Montenegro, Estonia, Finland, Norway and Thailand.

Aimed specifically at the owners of properties abroad, the company says it removes the difficulties of dealing with foreign insurers.

Jason Hulott, business development manager for the website, said: "This enhancement to our range of holiday home insurance products will prove invaluable to anyone owning an overseas holiday home."

The English language policy ensures customers know exactly what is covered and means that premiums and any claims are paid in sterling."



HEART OF THE HOME: Buyers place a higher value on the quality of the kitchen than any other part of the house when making their buying decision

Why luxury kitchen is the recipe for success

■ BY NICK AMES

THE kitchen is the heart of the home according to new research which shows that it is the place where families come together to socialise.

A survey discovered that time, energy and cash is spent by the majority of homeowners to ensure a state-of-the-art setting for culinary experiments and meals.

Housebuilders Redrow are behind the study which revealed three of the top ten optional extras for the home were upgrades to the kitchen.

Integrated kitchen appliances such as cookers, freezers and work surfaces were among the most popular choices, as was the installation of downlighters.

Simon Bennett, the company's marketing

director, said: "It's true to say that the kitchen is the nucleus of most family homes, a place where families come together not only to eat, but to talk and socialise.

"We design our kitchens with this in mind, incorporating breakfast or seating areas as much as possible and sometimes with family areas alongside, where children can play safely under their parents' supervision.

"On every development we offer a good choice of kitchen cabinets and workshop finishes, from the traditional to the modern, plus splash-back tiling and vinyl flooring.

"Many customers are taking this to the next level by choosing to upgrade to our top-of-the-range kitchens with fully-integrated appliances, granite workshops, ceramic floor tiles

and downlighters, proving that the kitchen is definitely at the heart of the home."

Redrow, who build around 5,000 new homes each year across England, Scotland and Wales, has just launched a scheme offering ways for people to personalise their homes by offering upgrades and extra fittings.

These range from taps to tiling, fireplaces in various designs, extra TV or phone points and alternative doors and handles.

The company also offers optional extras for those concerned about energy saving and preventing unnecessary emissions.

Included are kitchen waste segregation equipment, tap water flow restrictors, solar collectors, low energy lighting and advanced heating controls.

Other popular items include luxury bathroom fittings, carpets throughout the home, burglar alarms and additional fitted wardrobes.

ESCAPE THE WINTER GLOOM WITH A TOUR OF THE STUNNING RODA GOLF AND BEACH RESORT IN MURCIA @yourkenttv.co.uk



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Details and prices correct at time of going to press.



Romance and reality in idyllic Bearsted

The Chimes is an exclusive development steeped in history that still remains a rural village whilst benefiting from a selection of shops, pubs, restaurants and sporting clubs.

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3 bedroom Town Houses from	£310,000
4 bedroom Town Houses from	£365,000

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- Bathroom
- On Road Parking

Maidstone £525pcm

- One Bedroom Basement Flat
- Patio Area
- Shower Room
- Off Road Parking For 1 Car

Barming £550pcm

- One Bedroom Flat
- Situated Near The Hospital
- Allocated Parking
- Courtyard Garden

Riverside Plaza £695pcm

- One Bedroom Modern Flat
- Fitted Kitchen With Appliances
- River Views
- Bathroom With Shower

Barming £675pcm

- 2 Bedroom Apartment
- Kitchen With Appliances
- Parking For 1 Car
- Large Living / Dining Room

Maidstone £700pcm

- 2 Double Bedroom House
- 3rd Room For Study/Dressing Room
- Kitchen, Living Room
- Garden

Maidstone £725pcm

- 2 Bedrooms 4th Floor Flat
- En-Suite Shower Room To Master
- Parking
- Furnished

Barming £700pcm

- Brand New Apartment
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Ensuite To Master
- Lounge With Orchard Views

Maidstone £750pcm

- 2 Bedroom Apartment
- New Development
- River Side Location
- Allocated Parking

Bearsted £795pcm

- 2 Bed House In Popular Road
- Drive & Garage
- Modern Bathroom
- Kitchen, Living Room

Maidstone £850pcm

- Brand New Apartment
- Two Bedrooms – Use Of Hot Tub
- Open Plan Kitchen/Living Room
- Bathroom & En Suite Shower Room

Holborough £750pcm

- 2 Bed Detached Apartment
- New Development
- Modern Kitchen With Appliances
- Parking, En-Suite To Master

Barming £825pcm

- 2 Bedroom Cottage Style Property
- 2 Bedrooms With Ensuite Bathrooms
- Lounge & Kitchen/Utility Room
- Fully Furnished – Available April

Maidstone £895pcm

Awaiting Photo

Maidstone £925pcm

- 4 Bedroom House In Popular Area
- Near Schools
- 2 Bathrooms
- Large Spacious Accommodation

Vinters Park £1000pcm

- 4 Bedroom, All Good Size
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- Spacious House
- Fully Furnished

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

Sandling Park

From £850pcm



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AUCTION

Three-Day February Sale

Day One - The Ramada Hotel & Resort, Maidstone - Friday, 15th February - 11 a.m.

Day Two - The Hilton Brighton Metropole - Monday, 18th February - 11 a.m.

Day Three - The Rose Bowl, Southampton - Tuesday, 19th February - 11 a.m.

FOLKESTONE



Block of Eight Flats for Investment or Break Up
Guide Price: £1 Million Plus

WEST KINGSDOWN



Bungalow with Potential
Guide Price: £160-175,000

MAIDSTONE



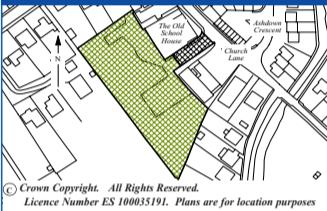
Planning for Conversion
Guide Price: £200-230,000

FOLKESTONE



Vacant Shop with Potential
Guide Price: £35-40,000

NEW ROMNEY



Planning for 14 Dwellings
Guide Price: £600-620,000

WHITSTABLE



Commercial with Potential
Guide Price: £180-200,000

FOLKESTONE



Store for Residential Conversion
Guide Price: £50-60,000

MARGATE



Conversion Potential
Guide Price: £100-110,000

DEAL



Vacant Terraced Cottage
Guide Price: £80-85,000

RAMSGATE



Town House for Upgrading
Guide Price: £135-145,000

DOVER TOWN CENTRE



Office Premises with Residential Conversion Potential
Guide Price: £300-310,000

WHITSTABLE



Bungalow for Improvement
Guide Price: £130-135,000

MARGATE



Site with Planning/Det. House
Guide Price: £55-60,000

ASH



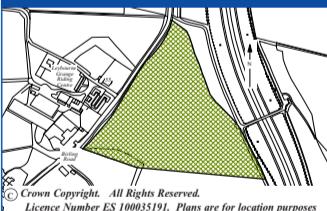
Village Investment
Guide Price: £180-200,000

CANTERBURY



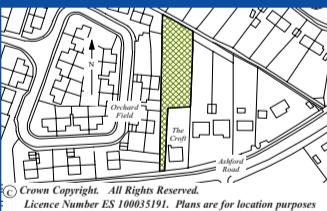
Vacant Two Bedroom Cottage for Improvement
Guide Price: £90,000 Plus

LEYBOURNE



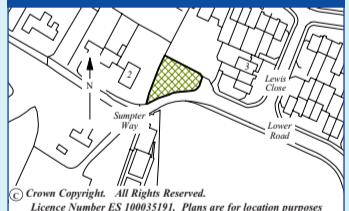
Eight Acre Site with Potential
Guide Price: £30-35,000

BETHERSDEN



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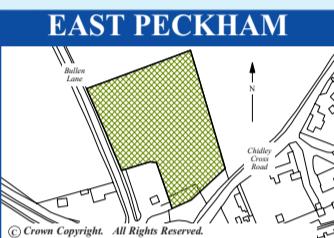
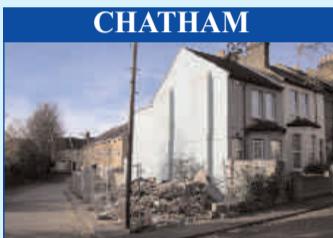
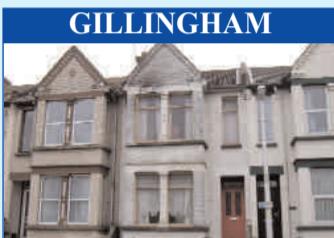
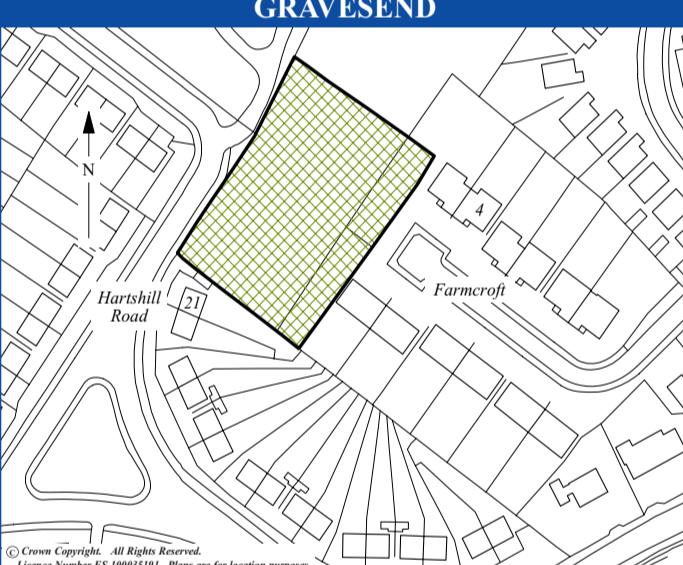
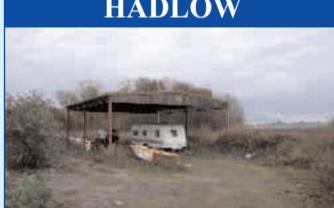
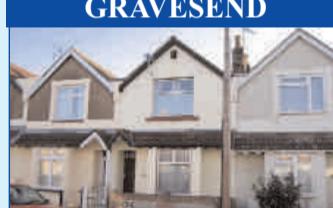
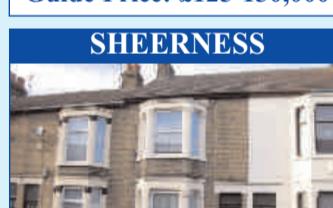
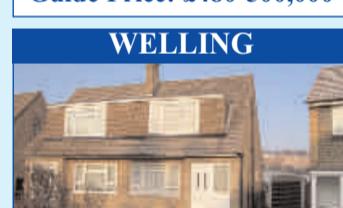
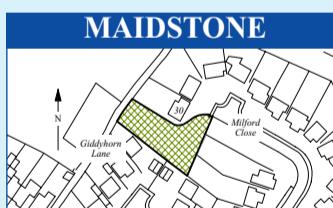
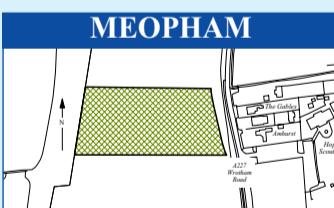
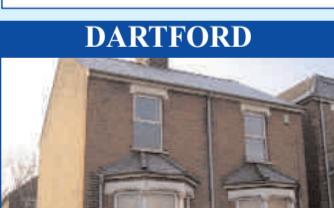
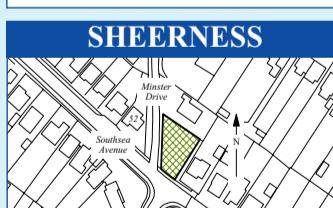
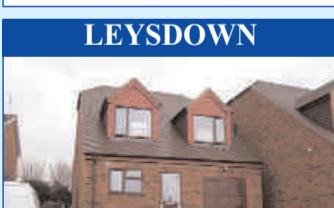
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GRAVESEND  Development Land Guide Price: £650-700,000	HADLOW  1.86 Acres Plus Building Guide Price: £60-80,000	GRAVESEND  House for Improvement Guide Price: £125-130,000	BIRCHINGTON  Public House Investment Guide Price: £480-500,000
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MAIDSTONE  End Terrace for Modernisation Guide Price: £115-120,000	MAIDSTONE  Individual Building Plot Guide Price: £125-130,000	MEOPHAM  Four Acres Residential Guide Price: £30-35,000	DARTFORD  Large Pair of Semis for Conversion Guide Price: £540-560,000
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£174,995

Hothfield



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Snodland



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- Allocated Parking, No Chain

Enquire Snodland

£209,995

West Malling



- 3 Bedroom End Of Terrace Home
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- Requires Some Modernising

Enquire West Malling

£229,995

Headcorn



- Three Bedroom Link Detached
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Enquire Headcorn

£250,000

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Enquire Larkfield

£179,995

Harrietsham Village



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Enquire Lenham

£279,995

Maidstone



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- Off Road Parking

Enquire Maidstone

£209,995

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Enquire Snodland

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Headcorn



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Enquire Headcorn

£159,995

East Malling



- 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
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- Additional Conservatory

Enquire West Malling

£249,995

Lenham Village



- Delightful Two Bedroom Home
- Sought After Cul De Sac Location
- Driveway & Garage

Enquire Lenham

£224,995

Maidstone



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- 2 Receptions, Cellar
- Close To Town Centre

Enquire Maidstone

£189,995

Snodland



- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Detached Garage
- No Onward Chain

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£194,995

Staplehurst



- One Bedroom Starter Home
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Enquire Staplehurst

OIRO £132,500

Leybourne Lakes



- 2 Bedroom Luxury Apartment
- En-Suite To Master Bedroom
- Stunning Lakes Views, Parking

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£197,500

Maidstone



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Enquire Maidstone

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Headcorn



- Detached Early Georgian House
- 3 Bedrooms & 3 Receptions
- Period Character

Enquire Headcorn

OIRO £435,000

Ditton



- 3 Bedroom Character House
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£224,995

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Enquire Staplehurst

£275,000

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- 5 Bedroom Detached Home
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Enquire West Malling

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- Village Square Location
- New Lease To Be Granted

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Ditton



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Snodland



- 2 Bedroom Maine Apartment
- En-suite To Master Bedroom
- First Floor Position

Enquire Snodland

£212,500

Maidstone



- Dual Level Apartment
- 2 Bedrooms
- No Forward Chain

Enquire Maidstone

£169,995

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- 5 Bedroom Family Home. 3 Bathrooms
- 3 Reception Rooms. Dressing Room
- Views Across Cricket Ground

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WEAVERING £499,995

- 5 Bed Executive Detached Family Home
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- 3 Receptions. 2 En-Suites. Bathroom
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MAIDSTONE £485,000

- 5 Bed Detached House. 3 Receptions
- Ample Parking On Block Paved Driveway
- Garage. Easy Access To Town, Station & M20

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KINGS HILL £482,500

- Five Bedroom Detached Family Home
- No Forward Chain. Two En-Suites
- Tandem Garage. Good Sized Plot

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TOVIL £470,000

- Substantial Georgian Detached House
- Situated On Generous Plot. Garage. ORP
- Attic Room. Victorian Style Extension

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KINGSWOOD £425,000

- 4-5 Bedrooms Chalet Bungalow
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room. Conservatory
- Flexible Accommodation.

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STAPLEHURST £399,995

- Major Portion Of Barn Conversion. CSCA
- Rural Setting. Double Reception. DSCR
- Country Style Kitchen. 3 Beds. Roll Top Bath

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ULCOMBE £365,000

- 4 Bed Family Home In Village Location
- Reception. Superb Views Over Farmland
- Master Bedroom. En-Suite Shower Room

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COXHEATH PRICE RANGE £355,000-£375,000

- 4-5 Bed Detached House. Village Location
- 2-3 Receptions. Cloakroom. En-Suite
- Superb 140' Rear Garden. ORP x 3

Loose Office 0845 3709 718



KINGS HILL PRICE RANGE £340,000-£360,000

- 4 Bed End Of Terrace Bellway Property
- Two Reception. Two Bathrooms. Garage
- Off Road Parking. No Forward Chain

King's Hill Office 0845 3709 718



EAST MALLING PRICE RANGE £334,995-£359,995

- Stunning 3 Bedroom Barn Conversion
- Kit/Breakfast Room. Parking 3-4 Vehicles
- Courtyard Style Garden. Popular Location

Larkfield Office 0845 3709 718



COXHEATH PRICE RANGE £330,000-£350,000

- 4 Bed Detached. Sought After Cul-De-Sac
- 3 Receptions. DSCR. DG. GFCH
- Master En-Suite. 26'+ Garage

Loose Office 0845 3709 718



BEARSTED PRICE RANGE £310,000-£330,000

- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Family Home
- Excellent Plot. Modern Bathroom. DG
- Planning Granted To Extend. GFCH

Bearsted Office 0845 3709 718



MARDEN PRICE RANGE £300,000-£330,000

- Stunning 2005 Built Detached House
- ORP. Delightful Landscaped Rear Garden
- Study. DSCR. En-Suite Shower

Staplehurst Office 0845 3709 718



STAPLEHURST OIRO £300,000

- Charming Attached 3 Bed Grade II Cottage
- Access To Trains, Amenities & School
- ORP. Living Room. Study. Kit/Breakfast

Staplehurst Office 0845 3709 718



ALLINGTON £300,000

- 3 Bed Detached Family House. 2 Receptions
- Double Glazed Conservatory. DSCR. ORP
- Corner Plot. Double Detached Garage

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ALLINGTON £299,995

- 3-4 Bed 1930s Cox's Style Semi Det House
- Popular Residential Location. GFCH
- Generous 'L' Shaped Rear Garden. DG

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HARRIETSHAM £290,000

- 3 Double Bed Detached Family Home
- 2 Receptions. Conservatory.
- En-Suite Shower Room. Landscaped Garden

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BIDDENDEN £280,000

- 3 Bedrooms. Superb Kitchen
- Dining Room. Shower Room
- Bathroom. Attractive Decor

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LARKFIELD £279,995

- Attractive 3 Bed EOT Town House
- GCH. DG. Allocated Parking. Built In 2007
- En-Suite Shower. Conservatory Extension

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DOWNSWOOD £274,000

- Improved 3 Bed Det On Excellent Plot
- 2 Receptions. Superb Fitted Kitchen. GFCH
- Conservatory. Modern Bathroom. DG

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PADDOCK WOOD £273,000

- Two Bedroom Detached House
- Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Garage. Convenient For Shops & Station

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YALDING £272,500

- 3 Bed Grade II Listed EOT Cottage
- Quiet Lane Above Village
- Top Of Chain

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KINGSWOOD £268,000

- 4 Bedroom Detached House. DG
- Quiet Residential Development. Garage
- Conservatory. Rear Garden

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BEARSTED £264,995

- Brand New 3 Bedroom Family Bellway Home
- High Spec. Convenient Loc. 10 Year NHBC
- En-Suite Shower. 110% PX Available

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EAST MALLING £263,995

- Attractive Modern 3 Bed Extended Semi
- GF WC. 17ft Extended Kitchen. Garage
- Quiet Cul-De-Sac. Near Railway Station

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PADDOCK WOOD £245,000

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Excellent Sized Garden. Conservatory
- Good Accommodation Space

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LEYBOURNE £235,995

- Impressive 3 Bed Semi Detached Home
- Two Receptions. Ground Floor Cloakroom
- Garage. Parking. Private Cul-De-Sac

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HORSMONDEN £235,000

- 3 Bedrommed Semi Detached Home
- Village Location
- Excellent Garden Size

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LEYBOURNE £234,995

- Stunning 2 Double Bed Luxury Apartment
- Prestigious Lakeside Development. Parking
- Master En-Suite. Private Balcony

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LARKFIELD £234,950

- Superbly Presented/Extended 3 Bed Semi
- 18'3 Conservatory. Double Glazing. GCH
- 17'9 Kitchen/Diner. Garage. 3 x Parking

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MAIDSTONE PRICE RANGE £230,000-£240,000

- 3 Bed EOT House. Refurbished Throughout
- 2 Reception Rooms. Cellar. No Chain!
- New Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom. Garden

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LEYBOURNE £229,995

- 3 Bedroom End Of Terrace. No Chain
- Driveway. Garage To Side. Rear Garden
- DG. Central Heating. Cul-De-Sac Position

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STAPLEHURST £220,000

- Chain Free. 3 Bed EOT. Corner Plot
- Potential To Extend Subject To PP
- Near Trains To London, Amenities & School

Staplehurst Office 0845 3709 718



WEST MALLING £213,750

- Stunning 2 Bed First Floor Apartment
- Family Bathroom. En-Suite
- Golf Course Views. Secure ORP

King's Hill Office 0845 3709 718



LOOSE PRICE RANGE £200,000

- Unique Opportunity. Part Built Family Home
- 4 Bedrooms. 2 En Suite. 3 Receptions
- Garage. Front & Rear Gardens

Loose Office 0845 3709 718

Ward & Partners

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MAIDSTONE £199,995

- 2 Bedroom Victorian Cottage. Attic Room
- DG. GFCH. Vacant Possession
- Refurbished Kitchen & Bathroom

Maidstone Office 0845 3709 718



LARKFIELD £199,995

- Superb 2 Bed Ground Floor Apartment
- DG. GCH. 17' Lounge. Allocated Parking
- Master Bedroom With En-Suite

Larkfield Office 0845 3709 718



COXHEATH £195,000

- Extended 2 Bed Semi Detached. Kitchen
- Living Room. Conservatory. Utility. ORP
- GF Shower Room. 100' Rear Garden

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WATERINGBURY £195,000

- Modern 2 Bed End Of Terrace Home
- Gas Central Heating. Driveway To Side
- DG. Sought After Cul-De-Sac Location

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BEARSTED £184,995

- Beautiful 2 Double Bed Terraced Home
- Lounge/Diner. Modern Kitchen & Bathroom
- DG. Gas Central Heating. Garage En-Bloc

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MAIDSTONE £174,995

- Superb 2 Bedroom Mid Terrace House
- Popular South Maidstone Location. ORP
- Landscaped Garden. No Ongoing Chain

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WATERINGBURY £174,995

- Victorian Two Bedroom Cottage
- GFCH. Refitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- Viewing Essential

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MAIDSTONE PRICE RANGE £170,000-£180,000

- 2 Storey 2 Bed Flat. Central Maidstone
- ORP Space. Terraced Garden To Side
- Fully Refurbished. A Must To View

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MAIDSTONE £167,200

- 2 Bedroom 1st Floor Luxury Apartment
- En-Suite Facilities To Master Bedroom
- Spacious Living Room. Fitted Kitchen. ORP

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MAIDSTONE PRICE RANGE £158,000-£163,000

- 3 Bedroom Terraced Property
- Downstairs Bathroom. 2 Receptions
- No Houses Behind. Close To Town Centre

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MAIDSTONE £150,000

- 2 Bed Mid Terrace House. Central Location
- 6 Minutes Walk From Station. New Kitchen
- New Carpets Laid To Stairs, Landing & 1st Floor

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SNODLAND OIEO £140,000

- Attractive 1 Bedroom House
- Secluded Garden. Parking
- No Forward Chain

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MAIDSTONE £139,995

- 2 Bed GF Apartment. Open Plan Living
- Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom. DG
- Electric Storage Heaters. Allocated Parking Space

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HALLING £138,950

- Spacious 2 Bedroom Duplex Maisonette
- Stylish Presentation. Allocated Parking
- No Forward Chain

Snodland Office 0845 3709 718



SNODLAND OIEO £125,000

- One Bedroom Home
- Conservatory. Garage
- Driveway. No Forward Chain

Snodland Office 0845 3709 718



SNODLAND £117,000

- Well Presented Ground Floor Maisonette
- Lounge/Diner. Fitted Kitchen
- Parking. Central Village Location

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MAIDSTONE PRICE RANGE £100,000-£110,000

- 1 Double Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Study. Open Plan Fitted Kitchen & Lounge
- Double Glazing. Gas Fired Central Heating

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SNODLAND £78,500

- Well Presented Studio Apartment
- Allocated Parking. Gardens
- Sought After Location

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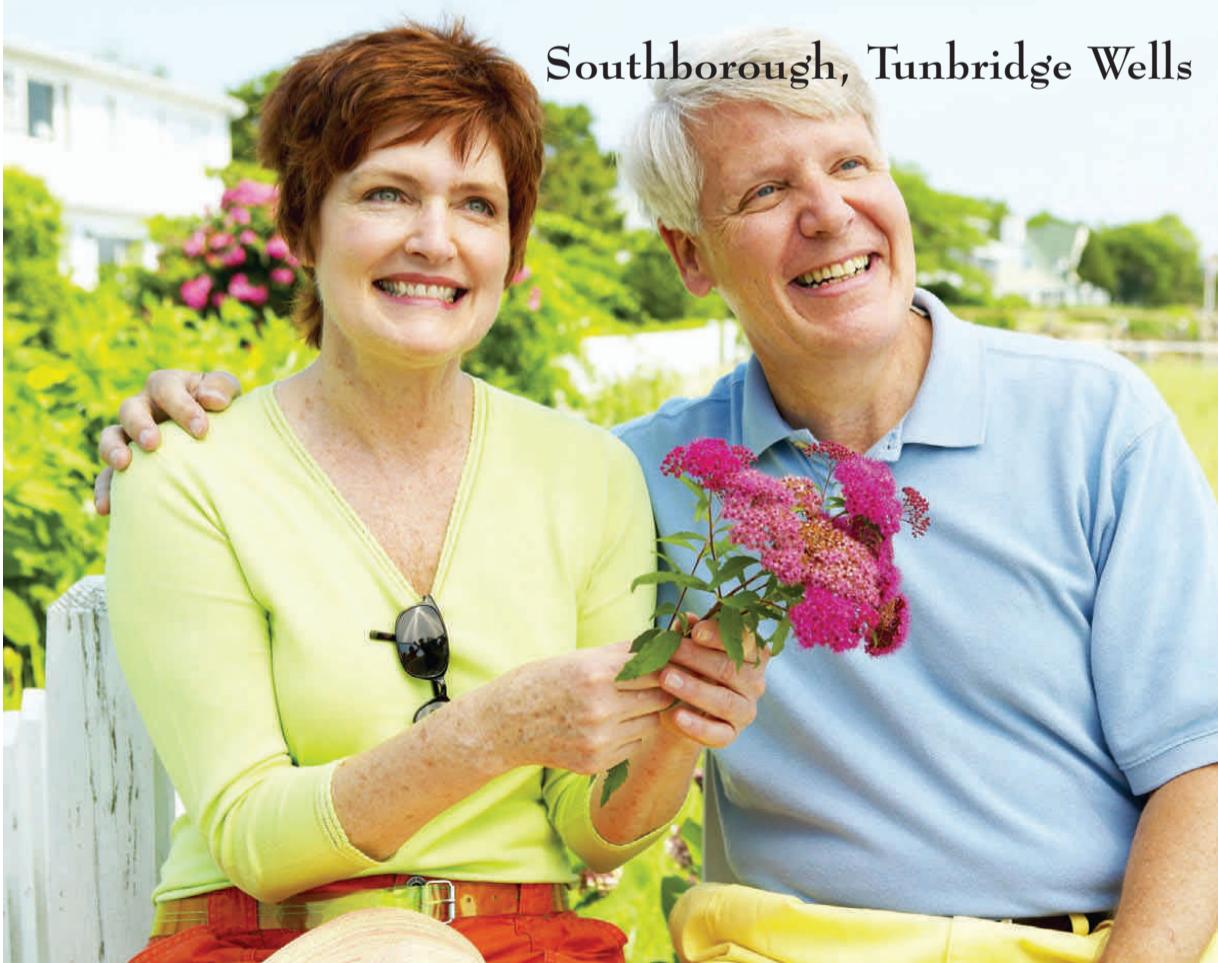
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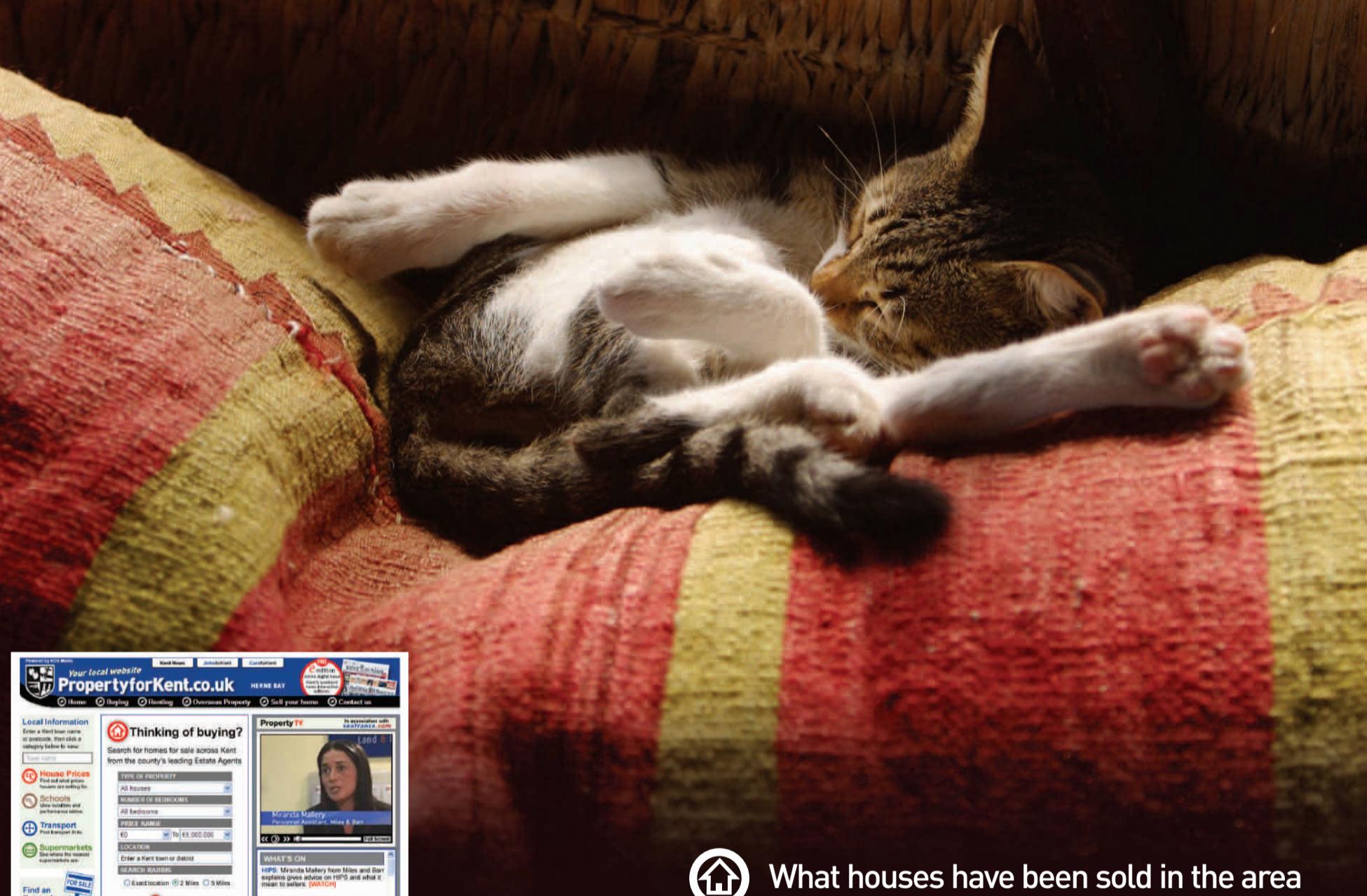
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MOTORS NEWS



Fiat's fortunes are looking up at last

FIAT is riding high in the aftermath of launching the highly-acclaimed Fiat 500.

An example of the retro-styled city car is still circling in a capsule aboard the London Eye – as pictured and part of last week's lavish launch event – while the parent company has announced a huge return to profitability.

For many years, Fiat suffered well-documented losses but the Italian group has announced a record trading profit of 3.2 billion euros for 2007 – 66 per cent up on 2006 and the car division almost doubled its profit over 2006, to 1.1 billion euros.

Sales of 2.234m vehicles was also the best in seven years.



Car dealers upbeat about used market

USED car dealers are positive about 2008, despite the credit crunch and faltering consumer confidence.

But research by motor valuation specialist CAP shows dealers see a need to better match stock to customer tastes.

Some plan to feature 'unusual' or more 'exotic' cars to tempt customers, while others will focus on lower mileage, smaller/more economical cars and higher specification cars.

Half will stock more diesels than a year ago – "Expect BMW diesel (pictured) values to rise even faster then," says Kosmedia motoring editor Steve Loader.



Multi-purpose luxury

CITROEN is taking the compact MPV to new levels of luxury with the Lounge special edition of the award-winning C4 Picasso.

The £23,995 Lounge features full black leather upholstery for four large individual armchair style seats, chrome wheels, premium sound system, vast panoramic sunroof, black bodywork, sporty rear spoiler and a special chrome grille.

Power comes from a 2.0 HDi 138bhp turbodiesel, paired with a six-speed fully automatic gearbox and offers a maximum 118mph and almost 40mpg on the combined cycle.



VERSATILE: The Toyota Verso offers a stylish exterior and all the practicalities required of an MPV, plus a drive quality that puts many of its competitors in the shade

If you've no choice but to buy an MPV...

WOULD anyone buy an MPV unless they really had to?

I ask myself this every time I road test one and weigh the pros of more space, versatility and, sometimes, extra seats against the cons: ugliness, extra costs and terminal image failure that cannot be saved by fancy alloys and a joke spoiler.

A possible exception is Toyota's midi contender, the Verso. The car's looks are not to everyone's tastes but, within the constraints of a 'one-box' MPV design, I reckon the Toyota cuts a dash.

The view inside is equally impressive; Toyota has created an air of distinction and quality and more chance than most MPVs of deferring the inevitable "Are we there yet?" whine.

Our T180 flagship was, of course, equipped with the ultimate deterrent: a DVD system with screens on the backs of the front seats, allowing two warring factions to be kept amused.

Then, should WWIII still ensue, that's when the rear privacy glass ensures the rest of the world is kept blissfully unaware of it.

ROAD TEST

TOYOTA VERSO

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

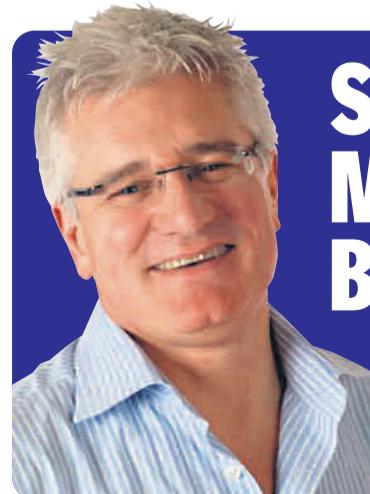
But what really impresses about all Versos is their driving appeal.

The T180 is particularly good, with dramatic low down pulling power from its 175bhp 2.2-litre turbodiesel making for impressive acceleration through a crisp and precise six-speed gearbox, yet it is neither raucous or coarse so an average of 40+mpg and relaxed motorway cruising is also part of the package.

Ride quality is a shrewd mixture of comfort plus taut handling with feedback through the wheel excellent for this class – whisper it, but I quite enjoyed a week with the car, mostly driving solo.

Versatility and space is top notch with both rearmost rows of seats folding flat to the floor for easy loading in 'van mode'. The middle ones also slide to vary boot space or legroom for those in the rearmost seats.

Like many rivals, using full seven-seat capacity means that boot space is modest, though no buyer of seven-seaters in this class should expect to use the cramped extra pair more than occasionally – for the school run perhaps.



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04 53 Vauxhall Astra Convertible 1.8 Convertible, Silver Lightning	£7,995	£7,295	£700
05 05 Vauxhall Astra Convertible 1.8 Exclusiv, Silver Lightning	£10,495	£9,995	£500
06 06 Vauxhall Astra Design 1.8 Auto 5dr. Silver	£9,495	£8,995	£500
05 05 Vauxhall Astra Design 1.9 Cdti (120) 3dr. Black	£9,995	£10,495	£500
07 07 Vauxhall Corsa Club 1.2 3dr, Metro Blue	£8,995	£8,495	£500
05 05 Vauxhall Corsa Combo 1.3 Cdti, White	£4995+Vat £4495+Vat	£500	
05 54 Vauxhall Corsa Design 1.4 Auto 3dr, Silver	£6,995	£5,995	£1,000
05 05 Vauxhall Corsa SRI 1.8 3dr. Black	£7,995	£7,495	£500
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03 53 Vauxhall Meriva Enjoy 1.7 Cdti 5dr. Spearmint Silver	£6,495	£5,995	£500
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06 06 Vauxhall Monaro 5.7 V8 2dr. Silver	£18,995	£17,995	£1,000
04 54 Vauxhall Vectra 1.8 5dr. Black	£6,995	£6,495	£500
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06 56 Vauxhall Zafira Club 1.6 5dr. Silver	£10,995	£10,495	£500
07 07 Vauxhall Zafira Design 1.9 (120) 5dr, Ultra Blue	£14,495	£13,995	£500
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05 55 Mercedes B170 SE Metallic Red	£14,495	£13,995	£500
06 06 Mercedes C180K Avant-garde SE Cubanite Silver	£17,995	£16,995	£1,000
02 02 Mercedes C200K Avant-garde SE Metallic Silver	£10,995	£9,995	£1,000
06 06 Mercedes C220CDi Sport Edition Diamond Black	£20,495	£19,995	£500
01 Y Mercedes E240 Elegance Metallic Silver	£7,495	£6,995	£500
03 53 Mercedes E320CDi Elegance Tealite Blue	£18,995	£17,995	£1,000
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Official fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) for the Ford Ka Zetec Climate shown are: Urban 34.4-20.2 (8.2), extra urban 60.1 (4.7), combined 47.9 (5.9). Official CO2 emission figures range from 141(g/km). These offers supersede all previous offers. Retail sales only. Licensed credit brokers, written quotations on request, subject to status. Metallic paint an extra £350. Pictures for illustration purposes only. All vehicles must be registered by January 31st 2008.

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Model shown for illustrative purposes only. fuel consumption in mpg (ltrs/100km): Urban 31.4 (9.0), Extra Urban 50.4 (5.6), Combined 41.5 (6.8). CO2 emissions 163g/km. Prices are correct at time of going to print and are subject to change without notice. Offers valid until 31st December 2007. Subject to availability at SMC Mitsubishi only.

USED CAR ROUND-UP:

OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

VW PASSAT



VW's previous Passat set a higher benchmark for quality and the new version raised the bar again. The German giant recognised the best way to counter upmarket rivals, including sister marque Audi, was by upping the standard of the overall package. So the new Passat is more spacious, drives better than the previous model and looks good. Factor in some of the best engines, petrol or diesel, on the market plus modest pricing and it looks irresistible.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

FORD MONDEO



SUCCESS almost undid the Mondeo. Ford's clout in the market for company cars means that the car used to sell in huge numbers. But being commonplace with an everyday badge on the bonnet led to avoidance by some private buyers, even though it offers a terrific mix of handling and ride; saloon, hatchback and capacious estate body styles; plus a huge range of engines and specifications – the diesels are a big improvement on those in previous Mondeos.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

TOYOTA AVENSIS



TOYOTA didn't have a great record in this sector before the latest Avensis. The previous model and its predecessor, the Carina II, were reliable but dull. The latest car is anything but mundane: styling is distinctive, build quality impeccable, refinement inspired by Toyota's luxury brand Lexus and it drives well. There is also a choice of saloon, hatchback and roomy-yet-stylish estate and two-litre and 2.2 turbo-diesels. Best of all, the Avensis comes with Toyota reliability built in.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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0707 New Corsa 1.2 Cdti Design 3dr Sapphire Black 2000miles	£10,795.00	SIGNUM From £7495	
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*Minimum 30% deposit required. Retail sales only. Offers and prices available to over 18s for registrations and orders taken from 1st January 2008 and before 31st March 2008 (subject to availability).

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Y	FABIA COMFORT 1.4 MPI	44K	DIAMOND SILVER	£4,490	07	2007	ROOMSTER 2 1.6 16V	OCEAN BLUE	£11,490					
04	FABIA COMFORT 1.4 16V	29K	GRAPHITE GREY	£6,490	07	2007	ROOMSTER 2 1.6 16V	ANTHRACITE GREY	£12,290					
05	FABIA AMBIENTE 1.4 16V	27K	CORRIDA RED	£6,990	07	2007	ROOMSTER 3 1.4 16V	FLAMENCO RED	£12,290					
55	FABIA ELEGANCE 1.4 16V	29K	HIGHLAND GREEN	£8,490			3K	OCEAN BLUE	£11,490					
55	FABIA ELEGANCE 1.9 TDI	24K	DIAMOND SILVER	£9,990	OCTAVIA 5DR HATCH									
53	FABIA BLUELINE 1.2 12V	31K	ADMIRAL BLUE	£5,790	07	2007	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 2.0 FSI	3K	SATIN GREY	£12,490				
55	FABIA VRS 1.9 TDI	27K	BLACK MAGIC	£9,990	04	2004	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 1.9 TDI	31K	STONE GREY	£9,490				
06	FABIA VRS 1.9 TDI	11K	CORRIDA RED	£10,990	04	2004	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 1.9 TDI	27K	GRAPHITE GREY	£9,990				
56	FABIA VRS 1.9 TDI	5K	CORRIDA RED	£11,490	04	2004	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 1.9 TDI	29K	SAHARA BEIGE	£9,690				
07	FABIA 1.2 12V	1K	FLAMENCO RED	£8,990	06	2006	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 1.9 TDI	8K	BLACK MAGIC	£12,490				
07	FABIA 1.2 12V	1K	SATIN GREY	£8,990	07	2007	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 2.0 TDI	3K	STORM BLUE	£14,490				
57	FABIA 1.2 12V	1K	FLAMENCO RED	£8,990	03	2003	OCTAVIA ELEGANCE 1.9 TDI	71K	BLACK MAGIC	£5,990				
07	FABIA 1.1 1.4 TDI	2K	BLACK MAGIC	£10,490	06	2006	OCTAVIA VRS 2.0 FSI	11K	DIAMOND SILVER	£13,990				
57	FABIA 1.2 12V	2K	HIGHLAND GREEN	£9,990	07	2007	OCTAVIA VRS 2.0 FSI	1K	RACE BLUE	£16,490				
FABIA 5DR ESTATE														
53	FABIA CLASSIC 1.4 MPI	57K	LEMON YELLOW	£4,790	07	2007	OCTAVIA VRS 2.0 FSI	4K	RACE BLUE	£16,490				
51	FABIA COMFORT 1.4 TDI	68K	CAYENNE RED	£5,290	07	2007	OCTAVIA VRS 2.0 FSI	4K	SATIN GREY	£17,490				
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06	FABIA ELEGANCE 1.4 16V	21K	GRAPHITE GREY	£9,490	OCTAVIA 5DR ESTATE									
07	FABIA BOHEMIA 1.2 12V	SATIN GREY	£8,990	07	2007	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 1.6 FSI		CAPPUCCINO BEIGE	£13,990					
ROOMSTER 5DR MPV														
56	ROOMSTER 1 1.4 16V	2K	CORRIDA RED	£8,990	05	2005	SUPERB COMFORT 1.9 TDI	11K	SAHARA BEIGE	£10,990				
07	ROOMSTER 1 1.4 16V	2K	DIAMOND SILVER	£10,990	06	2006	SUPERB COMFORT 2.0 TDI	5K	MYSTERY BLUE	£14,490				
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ACCORD, 2.0 SE Saloon 4dr VTec, 04/2001, air conditioning alloy wheels cruise control power assisted steering service history, silver, 55000 miles, £3,995, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

ALFA ROMEO

156, 1.8 T SPARK, 2000 (v), 67759 miles red, 4 door saloon, pas, abs, air bag, stereo, metallic burgundy, £only £2795, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

156, 1.8 T SPARK, 2000, red, 67759 miles, £2795, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

AUDI

A2, SE 5dr, climate control, remote alarm, remote central locking, power steering, anti-theft system, folding rear seats, radio cassette, uk specification, uk supplied, 16" alloys, aluminium silver, 66440 miles, £5999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

BENTLEY

CONTINENTAL GT, 2005, arena red metallic with saddle leather interior, 28000 miles, £62950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

BMW

3 SERIES, Saloon 2.0 D Se, metallic paintwork, black, £10940, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Ashford, 0845 371 0201 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

TT 1.8, QUATTRO, 2000, silver, 57947 miles, £9995, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

KALOS, SX 1.4, 502639, finished in poly silver with black cloth interior manual, black, 1000 miles, £7495, caffyns chevrolet t wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

CITROEN

C2, 1.1i SX 3dr, 2007, 3000 miles, £6795, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C2, 1.4 HDi SX 3dr, 2006, silver, 9200 miles, £7495, Barretts Citroen, Canterbury, 0845 3709768 (TRADE)

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DAIHATSU HI JET, drop side truck 49.000 miles £2750, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

GRAND MOVE, immobiliser, radio, red, 45000 miles, £2699, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

FIAT

BRAVO, 1.9 MultiJet 16V 150 Sport, 2915256, choice of colours, 0 miles, £13795, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

CROMA, 1.9 16v MultiJet Eleganza, 55256, choice of colours, 0 miles, £12033, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 8v Active Sunroof 3dr, central locking, power steering, abs, electric windows, sunroof, cd player, met silver, 17000 miles, £4995, Cranbrook Car Sales, Cranbrook, 01580 714007 (TRADE)

FORD

KA, Style, 55, genuine mileage car, carefully used one lady owner, non smoker, excellent condition, fsh, radio cassette, garaged nightly, taxed til end may 2008, 1 years maker warranty left, transferable, panther black, 9400 miles, £3595, Rochester, Kent, 077180 30006 (PRIVATE)

ESCORT, 1.6i Finesse Hatchback, 1998, front electric windows, multi-disc cd player, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, alloy wheels, pure silver black ro, 57039 miles, £8999, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

KA, 3dr, g104 kkt, rear wash/wipe, cloth upholstery, radio cassette, power steering, air bag, blue, 32000 miles, £3295, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

HONDA

ACCORD, 2.0 SE Saloon 4dr VTec, 04/2001, air conditioning alloy wheels cruise control power assisted steering service history, silver, 55000 miles, £3,995, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

HYUNDAI

AMICA, 1.0 GSi Auto, 2001, insurance group 4 air conditioning alloy wheels central locking drivers airbag folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering radio/cassette service history, polar white, 44000 miles, £2189, A 1 Carriages, Crawford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

ISUZU

TROOPER, Swb DT Light 4x4 Utility, ad53 mwy, central locking, electric front windows, cloth upholstery, cd player, radio, air conditioning, rear wash/wipe, power steering, head restraints, 4x4, rear seats, red, 68200 miles, £5695, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

S-TYPE, 3.0 V6 Auto, 1999, insurance group 15 abs alarm alloy wheels body coloured bumpers climate control drivers airbag radio/cassette remote central locking

side airbags traction control trip computer, 2 owners service history, meteorite silver, 62000 miles, £5000, A 1 Carriages, Crawford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

SMART

CITY-COUPE, electric windows, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, air conditioning, full leather, heated seats, electric front windows, rear wash/wipe, front fog lamps, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, power steering, cd player, stereo, sunroof, 16" alloys, silver, 25856 miles, £8995, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

FORFOUR, 1.3PASSI, 505639, finished in silver with silver interior manual, silver, 25000 miles, £5995, caffyns chevrolet t wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

BEETLE, 1.4, 2005, trim: cloth engine size: 1400 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, storm blue, 26000 miles, £8995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

BEETLE, CABRIOLET 1.6, 2004, trim: cloth engine size: 1600 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, monaco blue, 25000 miles, £10995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

SUZUKI

SUZUKI JIMNY JLX, 09 2000, 1.2 p auto 4x4 estate red 45000 miles, £2995, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

TRIUMPH

TROPHY, 900, 1996 (n), stunning met blue paintwork, only dry use, low mileage, garaged, remote alarm immobilizer, full pannier kit, a full mot, road tax, metallic blue, low mileage dry use only miles, £only £2195, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

ASTRA, 2004, 3x3 point rear seat belts abs alloy wheels audio remote control cloth seat trim drivers airbag electric door mirrors front electric windows front head restraints heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser isofix child seat anchor points pas passenger airbag rear headrests rear wiper remote central locking service indicator side airbags space saver spare wheel steering wheel rear adjustment steering wheel reach adjustment trip computer, moonland, 16242 miles, £7495, WJ King Vauxhall, Dartford, 01227 227581 (TRADE)

ASTRA

9-3, 1.8 Linear Convertible 2d 1998cc (2004), lc54uwd, black, 28000 miles, £14495, Maidstone Saab, Snodland, 01634 246 750 (TRADE)

9-3, 2.0T Aero Convertible 2d 1998cc 6sp (2004), gf07ksj, ice blue, 4000 miles, £25995, Maidstone Saab, Snodland, 01634 246 750 (TRADE)

SMART

ZAFIRA, Club 16v, 5729079, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, remote cloth upholstery, silver, 77600 miles, £4295, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

VOLKSWAGEN

BEETLE, 1.4, 2005, trim: cloth engine size: 1400 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, storm blue, 26000 miles, £8995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

BEETLE, CABRIOLET 1.6, 2004, trim: cloth engine size: 1600 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, monaco blue, 25000 miles, £10995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

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Senior & General Appointments 51-58

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Salary: £15 - £17.5k pro rata

Hours: min required 30

Apply with full C.V. to: Mrs S Challinger, Practice Manager, Riverside Medical Practice, Ferry Road, Halling, Rochester, Kent. ME2 1NP
 Tel: 01624 243722 or email: sue.challinger@nhs.net

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You will be:

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Candidates should be aware that the role is based within the care area of the children's hospice and an aptitude for dealing sensitively with stressful and confidential information will be required.

Salary £13,500 - £14,500 with good benefits. An Enhanced Disclosure check will be undertaken for the successful applicant.

Closing Date: 14th February 2008

Interviews: 3rd March 2008

Call our recruitment line on 01795 845295 for an application pack.
 Or for an informal chat call Lavinia Jarrett, Head of Human Resources on 01795 845207
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 (Permanent Part-time/Full-time position)
 For April 2008 or earlier
 Salary: Main Scale
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We are looking for an enthusiastic and pro-active, part-time Nursery Teacher (3 days a week) to job-share with our current Nursery Teacher (2 days a week). You would be supported by three Nursery Nurses.

The Nursery suite is large and well-resourced, with a well-equipped outdoor area.

Chantry Primary is medium-sized, multi-cultural primary school in Gravesend. All our staff are very friendly and try hard to work together to support each other. I am sure you will enjoy being part of our team.

Closing Date: Tuesday 12th February 2008
 Interview Date: Wednesday 27th February 2008



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 41 Riverside II, Sir Thomas Longley Road, Rochester, Kent ME2 4DP
 Tel: 01634 291124 Fax: 01634 291125
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We are looking for someone who can oversee the safe receipt, storage, retrieval and timely despatch of goods. You will be able to ensure workplace health and safety requirements are met and take responsibility for the security of the building and stock. You will also spend a fair proportion of your time setting up and providing a pre-delivery inspection on machines prior to despatch to customers. Applicants must be presentable, have related Warehouse experience, be proficient in Microsoft office, physically fit, active and hold a full UK driving license. In return we offer a competitive salary, exceptional working conditions and a secure future with a growing company.

*Please send your CV and a covering letter to the above address or email to:
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*Please send your CV and a covering letter to the above address or email to:
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"WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School, a 'special' school and a 'special' place to work.

We are currently looking for a

CLERICAL OFFICER

**Medway Scale D2, points 12 – 21
 £14,492 - £18,430 (pro rata)**

Abbey Court School caters for pupils aged 4-19 years with severe learning difficulties and is located on two sites at Strood and Rainham. The new appointment will be expected to work 37 hours per week, term time only to undertake administrative duties at the school.

We are looking for somebody with:

- good level of education, with GCSE's (or equivalent) in Maths and English
- experience of using Microsoft Office (particularly Word and Excel)
- excellent organisational skills and attention to detail
- knowledge of school office work desirable
- experience of SIMS.net database desirable but not essential
- enthusiasm and a good sense of humour

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 1st Feb 2008

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3SP. (Tel: 01634 338224), stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

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Call Morag Robinson, Agency Manager on 01303 210029 or email morag@fml.org.uk for informal discussion or job description/application pack.

Closing date for applications:
8th February 2008

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To apply please call 01795 520011


Unqualified Tutor

Unqualified Tutor Scale £14,751 – £23,331 pa
Temporary post for three years

Adolescent Resource Centre, Folkestone

The Adolescent Resource Centre concept is well established in other areas of Kent. The Folkestone 'ARC 25' builds on the existing models of innovative multi-agency alternative curriculum projects for disengaged and disaffected KS4 young people, providing broad professional support from a range of agencies and an exciting working environment.

Committed to high quality and genuinely imaginative education, focused on the needs of young people, ARC 25 in Folkestone is looking for committed education staff to join a team working from other agencies, including Social Services, Youth & Community, Connexions, Youth Offending Service and Health.

This post covers work with the client group both in centre and when needed being lead tutor on the Three Men in a Boat project which is a peripatetic learning provision working with young people with extreme and complex needs.

You will need to provide evidence of commitment to the welfare of, and effective working with, vulnerable, disengaged KS4 students and have a proven commitment to multi-agency team working and curriculum innovation.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure application to the Criminal Records Bureau. Ref: CFE/08/0017

Closing date: midday, 7th February 2008.

Resilience Co-ordinator

£19,572 – £29,190 per annum Salary dependent on experience and progression through the Career Grade is based on the fulfilment of required competencies

Invicta House, Maidstone

KCC delivers vital services to the public and it is essential that it can continue to do so in times of crisis. To ensure this, we need an additional person to help develop our business continuity arrangements.

If you understand business continuity in its widest sense and can guide and motivate people who work across a broad range of disciplines, please contact us. Knowledge of Local Government functions and organisation would be an advantage, but we are not seeking IS/IT specialists.

As a member of the Emergency Planning Group you may also be actively involved in addressing any emergency affecting the County. Ref: CD/08/0014.

Closing date: midday, 13th February 2008.

Emergency Planning Officer
Salary and location as above.

KCC and the District Councils in Kent play a vital role in responding to a wide range of emergencies, helping those affected and restoring the community to normality. We need another person to join our Team to assist in discharging the County Council's duties under the Civil Contingencies Act, and a range of associated activities. The work is interesting and challenging. You should have a sound knowledge of Local Government functions and organisation.

Knowledge of Emergency Planning would be an advantage.

Ref: CD/08/0015

Closing date: midday, 13th February 2008.



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Application forms and further details are available from www.canterbury.ac.uk. Alternatively please call 01227 782475 (answerphone) or e-mail hr@canterbury.ac.uk quoting reference DM/REG/77. No agencies.

Closing date: 8 February 2008.


Childcare Development Officer

Starting salary £22,268, with progression through contribution related pay to £25,521 pa pro rata

Part-time 18.5 hours per week

Swanley and District Cluster

Supporting the development of "sustainable childcare markets" in the context of the Government's Ten Year Childcare Strategy, you will be responsible for promoting and supporting the expansion of existing early years and out of school group childcare provision and for the development of new provision in line with identified needs, aiming to ensure that it is set up to be financially viable and therefore long term sustainable. (NB. Early years and out of school childcare in this context excludes childminders, but includes, where appropriate and necessary, early education for eligible three and four year olds).

You will have an NVQ Level 3 in early years/childcare/play work, or equivalent or a qualification in business and finance as well as experience of working in a group childcare setting with funding applications and with business and financial plans in an advisory/supportive capacity.

You will also have knowledge and understanding of the current childcare agenda, including Daycare Standards and working knowledge and understanding of business and financial planning.

Good communication skills, and the ability to work effectively and sensitively with the widest range of colleagues are essential.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs

Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk

Please quote reference CFE/08/0005.

Closing date: midday, 4 February 2008.



www.kent.gov.uk/jobs



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Due to our expanding roll we require

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Experience of working with children and young people in a formal caring capacity required.

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Training given to help with all aspects of the role.

Contact us for an application form and job description. Email: principal@westheathschool.com Tel: 01732 468 995

The successful applicants will be subject to a CRB check

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Due to our continuing growth, we are currently seeking an intermediate Quantity Surveyor/Estimator to enhance our team in Kent and the South East.

The successful applicant should be experienced in sub contract procurement, preparing of valuations, cost reporting and the settling of final accounts for our demolition and small development sections. They should have good communication skills, be client focused and have the ability to work as part of a team.

An appropriate remuneration package including company car is available dependent on qualifications and relevant experience.

Please email CV's to
info@dds-demolition.co.uk.

71 Monkton St, Monkton, Kent, CT12 4JF

Chantry Primary School
Ordnance Road, Gravesend, DA12 2RL
Tel: 01474 350011 • Fax: 01474 323774
Email: office@chantry.kent.sch.uk
Age range: 3-11

PPA TEACHER required for April 2008 or earlier

We are looking for a teacher to cover 3 days of KS2 PPA time. You would be required to plan, deliver, assess and report on two subject areas for the relevant classes.

You would need to have good classroom management skills, be an enthusiastic team player and keen to help our children to grow. An interest in RE could be an advantage.

Please contact Hazel King (Head Teacher) at the school for an informal discussion, further information, an application form and an appointment to visit.

Closing date: Tuesday 12th February 2008
Interview date: Wednesday 27th February 2008

Chantry Primary School
Ordnance Road, Gravesend, DA12 2RL
Tel: 01474 350011 • Fax: 01474 323774
Email: office@chantry.kent.sch.uk
Group 2 Age range: 3-11

YEAR 5 TEACHER required for April 2008 or earlier Salary- Main Scale (depending on experience)

We are looking for an enthusiastic, experienced and highly motivated class teacher to join the staff of this friendly, supportive and multi-cultural school.

Whilst we welcome a range of interests we are currently looking for someone to lead PHSE.

Visits to the school welcome.

Closing date: Tuesday 12th February 2008
Interview date: Wednesday 27th February 2008



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T-P Customer Service Jane t: 01634 811494 e: chatham@hrgokent.co.uk £6.50 p/h Chatham Ref: KOSCH1843

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Post Ref: 06/22/KOS

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Post Ref: CA6/KOS

Senior Administrator – Student Support Services

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,285 per annum.

Post ref: 07/96/KOS

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The closing date for the above posts is Monday 4 February 2008 at 12 noon.

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- Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
- It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that recruitment related advertising meets current employment legislation and KOS Media takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of this newspaper, relating to employment law.
- Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
- Claims for any error or inaccuracy in the printing of an advertisement must be made within 10 days of publication to the accounts department in writing.
- No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
- Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The publisher will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them.
- Cancellation must be advised in writing one week prior to date of publication of an advertisement.
- All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
- Should the rate for advertisements be altered, the price for remaining insertions shall be revised accordingly.
- a) All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to the Publishers shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
- b) In the event that payment is not received by the Publishers by the due date, the Publisher shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract.
- c) In the event that payment is not received by the Publishers by the due date the Publisher reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
- d) Notwithstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of the Publisher (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
- e) The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by the Publisher in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
- f) Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
- Any discount which the Publisher may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
- Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
- All private advertisement and certain categories as laid down by the Publisher must be prepaid.
- The Advertiser agrees to indemnify both the publisher and the Group in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the Publisher or any of the companies within the Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of the advertisement.
- Order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
- Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the Publishers belong to the publishers. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the publishers consent.

Effective from July 2007

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Greenfields Community Primary School Maidstone

Due to amalgamation and restructure we have the following administration vacancies:

Receptionist - Kent Scheme 3-30 hrs p/w
SIMS/Secretary - Kent Scheme 4-15 hrs p/w
PA/Secretary - Kent Scheme 4-27.5 hrs p/w

All posts are for 40 weeks per year
For detailed description, online application and contact details please go to:
www.kent-teach.com
or telephone 01622 758538
Closing date for all posts 25th February 2008

RGNs

required by friendly Faversham care home

Must be experienced.

To £13 ph.

Increased rate by negotiation if willing to accept greater responsibility.

Please call 01795 530156

CARE ASSISTANTS

required by friendly Faversham care home

Experience preferred but not essential.

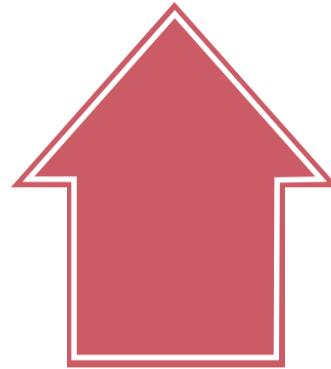
To £6 ph without NVQ,

increased rate if NVQ qualified.

Please call 01795 530156

Our standards in Housing Services are moving in one direction...

Operations and Housing Services Housing Services



Gravesham is a diverse borough facing exciting challenges in the future. We are at the heart of the Thames Gateway and on the brink of massive growth and development, so if you've got vision, imagination and ambition, there's no better place to progress your career.

Tenancy Services Manager Ref: TSM/WA

Salary: Package up to Circa £45,000

Reporting to the Housing Operations Manager, you will lead our council tenancy management service, you'll build on what we've achieved to date, while continually raising standards.

As we provide housing services to around 6,000 households, this is a major challenge and you'll need to use your skills and talents to the full. You will have a proven track record in providing tenancy services, first class communication, negotiation, consultation and influencing skills.

Caretaker Services Co-ordinator Ref: CSO/WA

Salary: Package up to Circa £27,000

This is an exciting opportunity for an individual with the skills to further develop caretaking services provided to residents across the borough. Tenants regularly inform us that a good caretaking service is one of their main priorities and this role is therefore a key one within the department.

Reporting to the Tenancy Services Manager, you will manage, and lead our caretaking service and ensure innovation and best practice are core to the delivery of the caretaking service.

Neighbourhood Development Worker Ref: NDW/EMK

Salary: Circa £17,000 – £21,000

This is an exciting opportunity for an individual with the skills to encourage and facilitate the involvement of residents across the borough. In accordance with the Council's resident involvement strategy you will develop and support a range of tenant participation initiatives and promote and develop effective partnerships between residents, members and staff.

You will have proven experience in tenant participation, resident involvement, community development or social housing; excellent written and verbal communication skills and an innovative approach to problem solving. You will be required to undertake data analysis therefore IT literacy is essential.

Rent Arrears Officer Ref: RAO/WA

Salary: Circa £17,000 – £21,000

In this varied role you will be responsible for carrying out arrears recovery action which will include attending court. A strong team player, you will have the ability to work effectively to meet targets for rent collection and arrears. You will have experience of debt recovery, good communication and IT skills and the ability to prepare reports and present cases.

A full driving licence and use of a vehicle is essential as you will be required to carry out home visits throughout the borough.

Closing date for all posts: Monday, 11 February 2008.

For an application form and job description please contact:
Customer Services, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU.

Telephone: 01474 33 70 00
Email: customer.services@gravesham.gov.uk
Website: www.gravesham.gov.uk

Gravesham Borough Council is working towards equal opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. The Council also operates a no smoking policy.



Gravesham
Borough Council



Gravesham Borough Council

Financial Services Accountancy

Clerical Assistant

Salary: Circa £11,500 – £14,500

We are seeking an enthusiastic team player with previous clerical/admin experience to join our Finance department. Excellent administrative and IT skills, outstanding customer service skills and the ability to work under pressure are also essential in this role. Ref: CA/SG

Closing date: 8 February 2008.

For an application form and job description please contact:
Customer Services, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU.

Telephone: 01474 33 70 00
Email: customer.services@gravesham.gov.uk
Website: www.gravesham.gov.uk

Gravesham Borough Council is working towards equal opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. The Council also operates a no smoking policy.



Gravesham
Borough Council



achievement development experience employability

Canterbury College



Director of FE Curriculum



Salary £75,000 37 hours per week

Post Ref: DFE

Exciting developments continue at Canterbury College, one of the largest providers of FE in the South East. These include a new campus redevelopment offering modern state of the art facilities. With rising success rates, growth in recruitment and a positive recent Ofsted inspection, Canterbury College is determined to be one of the best FE colleges in the south east by 2010, meeting the needs of students, employers and communities in East Kent and beyond.

Now the College is looking for a new Director of FE Curriculum to be a key member of the Senior Management Team and to deputise for the Principal. Reporting to the Principal you'll be responsible for shaping the future direction of the whole of the FE curriculum, across seven Faculties and the satellite Shepney College.

Up to date knowledge of the FE curriculum and a good understanding of key national developments is essential. So too is a commitment to excellence, a focus on delivery and strategic understanding. A self-starter with drive, energy and enthusiasm, you'll have the presence, credibility and influencing skills to inspire confidence in staff, partner schools and all those with whom you'll engage. In return you'll gain the experience and the support to position you for leading your own college.

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above post is Friday 22 February 2008 at 12 noon. Interviews will take place on: 13 & 14 March 2008.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to Main bus/train Stations
- Close to City Centre
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Staff Discount Scheme

Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer



Discover your Potential

Mid-Kent College is one of the largest providers of Further Education in Kent with over 12,000 students, 800 staff and an income in excess of £27m.

Located at four sites in Maidstone, Chatham and Rochester we will open our new £82 million campus to students in September 2009.

At a time of unprecedented change the College is looking to recruit a number of professionals to help deliver our vision and values in the following areas.



Additional Learning Support (CAST) Tutor Lecturer Grade C: £28,415 - £31,954

The main task of the post-holder will be to organise, deliver, monitor and evaluate the additional learning support for learners. Preferably JCQ qualified. You will also have a recognised teaching qualification and be able to demonstrate recent, all round experience and knowledge in assessing and supporting learners.

Lecturer in Electrical Installation

Lecturer Grade C: £28,415 - £31,954

We are seeking to appoint enthusiastic professionals to teach, assess and participate in the development of Electrical Installation courses. The successful candidate will assist learners in all practical aspects of electrical installation and be able to assess competence at all levels on electrical programmes. The applicant must hold a relevant qualification in Electrical Installation and have proven trade experience.

Lecturer in Electrical Installation

with Programme Co-ordination Responsibilities

Grade: Circa: £28,415 - £31,954

We have an excellent opportunity for a Lecturer in Electrical Installation who will be actively involved in the development and promotion of Electrical Installation programmes. The ideal candidate must hold a relevant qualification in Electrical Installation and have proven trade experience. This post would provide an excellent opportunity for a highly motivated lecturer to take a first step into Management.

Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering

Lecturer Grade C: £28,415 - £31,954

The primary role of the post-holder will be to teach, demonstrate, facilitate, assess machining operations and participate in the development of Mechanical Engineering courses. You will have proven experience in Mechanical Engineering and be able to teach across a range of levels from Foundation/GCSE to Higher National. The successful candidate will have a HNC or Degree in an Engineering subject. Knowledge of CAD/CAM would be an advantage, applicants should hold or be willing to work towards an approved teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Psychology

Lecturer Grade B: £24,361 - £27,897

We are looking for a Lecturer in Psychology to is to teach on a range of courses and participate in the development of Psychology. Applicants should hold a relevant degree in Psychology and have the ability to teach A/S and A2 Level and Access courses.

Chef Lecturer in Hospitality and Catering

Lecturer Grade B: £24,361- £27,897

You will contribute to the development, management and teaching of hospitality programmes. With current knowledge and practical experience of the Catering Industry you will have sufficient teaching experience and educated to Level 3 or the equivalent in a relevant field. The candidate must have a recognised teaching qualification, Intermediate Food Hygiene certificate and possess either a D32/33 or A Award.

HE Lecturer in Tourism (22 hours per week)

**Ref: 297
Lecturer Grade C: £28,415 - £31,954 pro-rata**

An opportunity has arisen for a HE Lecturer in Tourism. The main purpose of the role is to deliver and teach on our foundation degree in tourism. You will also be required to teach on a range of Travel and Tourism courses. You must have a degree in Tourism and be willing to work towards an appropriate teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Performing Arts

**Ref: 081
Lecturer Grade B £24,361 - £27,897**

We have an exciting opportunity for a creative and dynamic individual with enthusiasm for working with younger students. The successful candidate will be involved with the development of the department, driving forward new ideas and must be able to demonstrate innovative ways of working.

You will have experience teaching in FE, ideally with an acting and/or drama specialism with a minimum first degree in relevant subject area and hold an appropriate teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Basic Skills, Key Skills & ESOL

**Ref: 383
Lecturer Grade A: £16,399 - £23,840**

The post holder will join a team of teachers who are responsible for delivering Skills for Life qualifications in ESOL, Key Skills and Basic Skills. The job involves preparing, organising and teaching ESOL, Key Skills and Basic Skills qualifications to full time and part time students. You will be a graduate with teaching experience and ideally have an ESOL/EFL qualification.

Personal Tutor (Fixed-Term & Permanent) Grade E £19,161 - £24,700

As a Personal Tutor you will plan and deliver a full range of group tutorials to learners with a wide range of abilities. A key responsibility will be to effectively liaise with departmental staff, parents/guardians and attend various meetings to share relevant information. You will be able to work with minimum supervision and have experience of working in a coaching, mentoring or teaching capacity and be willing to undertake an appropriate teaching qualification.

Assessor in Engineering

(15 hours per week)

Grade E: £19,161 - £24,700 pro-rata

An opportunity has arisen for an Assessor in Engineering. The successful candidates will be responsible for monitoring the progress of trainees and ensuring employers and managing agents are apprised of trainee progress in their respective areas. The post(s) will be responsible for assessing practical skills and internal verification of trainees therefore candidates should hold a relevant qualification for Mechanical Engineering or Services or Fabrication & Welding assessment.

Assessor/Reviewing Officer in Electrical Installation

Grade E: £19,161 - £24,700

We are looking for an Assessor/Officer in Electrical Installation. The successful candidate will review and assess learners in all aspects of electrical installation. You must possess a suitable qualification in Electrical Installation and have proven trade experience. Good communication skills, both verbal and written are essential and ability to travel between College sites.

Assessor/Reviewing Officer in Carpentry

Grade E: £19,161 - £24,700

As a member of Construction Crafts you will liaise with employers and learners to co-ordinate, review and assess apprentices on funded programmes. You will have experience working in the Construction Industry as a Wood Occupations Assessor and have up-to-date knowledge of assessment issues.

Personnel Officer

Grade: Circa £26,000 to £30,000

Using strong business acumen you will provide comprehensive generalist advice to our clients and work closely with senior managers on specific projects and TUPE transfers.

You will be able to demonstrate knowledge of employment legislation, including TUPE and have significant experience of capability, disciplinary and grievance procedures. The successful applicant must have the ability to introduce change effectively and diplomatically, whilst knowledge of payroll would be advantageous. You will have obtained a degree or equivalent qualification and CIPD membership/part membership or a willingness to work towards membership.

Personnel Advisor

Grade B: £14,618 - £17,994

As a member of the Personnel department you will compliment the existing team in all aspects of the day-to-day running of the College Personnel function. You will provide generalist advice to managers and staff and have an understanding of recent developments in employment legislation. The successful candidate will be educated to level 2/3 or equivalent and be able to demonstrate excellent administrative skills and practical knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel. In addition, an interest in Payroll would be advantageous and you will have obtained your CPP qualification or be willing to work towards it.

Payroll Assistant

Grade B: £14,618 - £17,994

As a member of the Personnel and Payroll department you will assist in all aspects of the day-to-day running of the College Payroll, including processing joiners, leavers, pensions and claim forms. You will be able to demonstrate excellent numeracy skills and have the ability to produce and manipulate data using spreadsheets. Previous Payroll experience and an interest in employee relations would be advantageous.

Technician in Beauty

Grade A: £11,261 - £15,727

We are looking to recruit a highly motivated individual to provide guidance and support to learners and assists with the running of various Clinics. You will be energetic with good organisational and communication skills and have relevant experience within the beauty industry.

Travel Shop Advisor

(15 hours per week)

Grade D: £17,341 - £22,239 pro-rata

A vacancy has arisen in our fully ABTA bonded travel agency for an experienced travel consultant. The candidate will be able to demonstrate an understanding of travel courses and provide comprehensive and professional travel provision for staff, students and visitors to the College.

Examinations Assistant

Grade B: £14,618 - £17,994

As the main point of contact for at least one Awarding Body you will provide administrative support for examinations in liaison with the examinations co-ordinator. You will have experience using databases and Microsoft Word and Excel.

Receptionist/Administrator (Fixed-Term, Maternity Cover, Maidstone)

Grade A: £11,261 - £15,727 per annum

Receptionist/Administrator (Chatham & Rochester) Ref: 397
Grade A: £11,261 - £15,727

As a member of the multi-disciplined Campus Management Team you will provide a comprehensive and efficient front-line service to College stakeholders. You will undertake the full range of reception and administrative duties and have experience using MS Office applications. Previous reception/administration and front-line experience essential.

**Library Assistant
(18.5 hours per week 40 weeks per year)**

Grade A: £11,261 - £15,727 pro-rata

As part of a team you will assist in the provision of front line library services, ensuring the delivery of high quality, easily accessible services to all users. We are looking to appoint a professional and enthusiastic individual with excellent administrative skills who is able to work accurately with alpha/numeric systems. You will be educated to GCSE or equivalent level in Mathematics and English.

Learner Finance Administrator

Grade A: £11,261 - £15,727

Your prime responsibility will be to define and maintain a central College system for delivering the administrative requirements of all Learner Finance services within set financial guidelines. Services include, Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and the Audit Learning Grant (ALG).

Department Administrator

(Fixed-Term, Maternity Cover)

Grade A: £11,261 - £15,727 per annum

You will provide efficient and effective day-to-day administrative support and assistance to at least one department. You will have excellent administrative skills and experience using Microsoft Office applications.

Apprentice in Administration (1 year Fixed-Term Contract)

Grade A: based on percentage of £9,350

As a member of the Curriculum Team you will provide support to College stakeholders and the learning and development function. The successful candidate will develop competencies to meet NVQ Level 2 Standards of performance.

Administration Assistant

(Fixed-Term, Maternity Cover)

Grade B: £14,618 - £17,994 per annum

Working with the Learning and development team you will assist in the planning and co-ordination of all Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities. Advanced knowledge and experience of using Microsoft Office and the ability to plan, organise and take minutes of meetings is essential.

Entry to Employment Facilitator

(6 months Fixed-Term)

Grade A: £11,261 - £15,727 pro-rata

We are looking to recruit an individual with excellent administration skills to assist with the day-to-day recording of student progress and to liaise with external and internal agencies under the guidance of Tutors.

Please note that all posts are subject to a 3% cost of living increase effective from 1 February 2008.

The benefits of joining Mid-Kent College include generous annual leave, final salary pension scheme, flexible working and on-site gym.

All posts are subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please call the Personnel department on 01634 845402 (24 hour answer machine) or e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk quoting the appropriate reference number.

Closing date: Friday, 15 February 2008

Mid-Kent College is committed to Equal Opportunities and encourages applications from all sections of the community and welcomes applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.



Find a job online

Register your details and we'll email you daily with new jobs that match your selected criteria



JobsforKent.co.uk

The smart way to find a job in the County





Canterbury Christ Church University is the largest centre of higher education in Kent for the public services - notably teacher training, policing, health and social care - and is a significant provider of programmes in a wide range of academic and professional areas.

CANTERBURY CAMPUS

CORPORATE INFORMATION SERVICES

.NET Developer

£32,796 to £40,335 per annum

We are seeking to recruit a talented and experienced .NET Developer to significantly contribute to the University's student portal project.

You will enjoy working as part of a team and must be a self-starter who is dynamic and driven to succeed. You will be proactive, with excellent verbal and written communication skills and the ability to work unsupervised. You will have a proven track record of technical development and exceptional technical skills. You will have experience of implementing design frameworks within user interface applications.

You will have a degree (or equivalent) in a relevant discipline with significant and demonstrable development experience in .NET web application development using both C# and VB.Net. Ref: ND/CIS/77.

For an informal discussion contact Louise Sibley on 01227 782522.

Closing date: 7 February 2008. Interview date: 15 February 2008.

CAMPUS SERVICES

Night Security Manager

£22,332 to £24,403 per annum

You will be responsible for the leadership and management of the University night security staff throughout Canterbury (teaching, administration and student residential locations) during the evening and night time periods.

Reporting to the Security Manager, the post carries a wide range of security and student welfare related issues. You will work closely with other University managers, police and local community groups in connection with the licensed students bar, entertainment centre and student residences based on the North Holmes campus and throughout Canterbury.

You will have experience in either a relevant security environment or the Police/Military forces at supervisory level. Ref: NSM/CAM/77.

Closing date: 8 February 2008.

Application forms and further details are available from www.canterbury.ac.uk. Alternatively please call 01227 782475 (answerphone) or e-mail hr@canterbury.ac.uk quoting the appropriate reference. No agencies.



Serving You

Library Assistant –

HMYOI Cookham Wood Ref: COM0872L

Grade D2. Salary £14,492 – £18,430

16 hours per week – likely to include two evenings, although this is subject to change.

Based at HMYOI Cookham Wood, Rochester we are looking for a flexible, organised person who is confident working on their own or part of a small team, to work with young men between the ages of 15 and 17. You must be able to work independently, enjoy helping people, and have good customer care and IT skills. You will have a love of books and a desire to be involved in initiatives and activities to encourage reading.

Excellent communication skills are essential as you will be working with disaffected teenagers, and you will be running group activities such as a book club. You must be able to empathise with this client group whilst maintaining confidentiality and security. You will be asked to be flexible about working patterns as some evening and weekend work will be required.

Any offer of appointment will be subject to a Criminal Records Bureau enhanced disclosure and prison security clearance.

For an informal discussion contact Megan Silver, on 01634 803251, (Monday – Thursday).

Closing date: 15 February, 2008.

All posts will be open to part-time and job share applicants unless designated as an exception.

To apply

visit www.medway.gov.uk

call **01634 333333** Mon to Fri 8am – 8pm, Sat 9am – 1pm.
01634 332843 24-hour answerphone.

email jobs@medway.gov.uk quoting the reference.

Valuing people's differences, recognising their strengths.



Bereavement Counselling Training Programme

Wisdom Hospice Bereavement Service

We are currently recruiting bereavement volunteers to work within the Wisdom Hospice Bereavement Service. To support this we are offering a training programme. Part 1 will provide participants with a comprehensive introduction to bereavement theory and practise, for four consecutive Wednesdays commencing 2 April 2008 from 1.00 - 6.00pm.

Following a selection interview participants who wish to continue will progress onto Part 2, which is a 2-day intensive counselling skills programme on 14 and 21 May 2008.

On completion you may be eligible to become a volunteer bereavement counsellor within this Service. Group supervision and regular training sessions are offered. You would be required to commit to a minimum of 6 hours a week.

Acceptance onto the Bereavement Training Programme will be by application form and interview. We would preferably like to hear from people with some experience of counselling and from those who are not actively grieving.

Application forms can be obtained from Lesley Trott (between 9.00am and 1.30pm) on 01634 830456, or email: lesley.trott@medwaypct.nhs.uk

For an informal discussion please call Cate Masheder or Ann McMurray on the above telephone number, Wisdom Hospice, High Bank, Rochester ME1 2NU.

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Facts International Ltd is now part of a major plc which means NEW pay rates, NEW technology and NEW business.

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The shifts are flexible to suit your lifestyle between 9am and 9pm. There are NO targets NO selling and NO unnecessary pressure.

So if you are a good communicator with basic keyboard skills call Ieda on (01233) 648501 or email ieda@facts.uk.com



achievement

development

experience

employability

Canterbury College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opens in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Section Manager Construction Crafts

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £32,648 per annum.

Post Ref: 08/12/KOS



Co-ordinator Health & Social Care

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £26,236 per annum.

Post Ref: 04/171/KOS



Lecturer in Hospitality & Catering

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 06/48/KOS



Lecturer Electrical Installations

37 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 per annum.

Post ref: 06/131/KOS



HE Lecturer Music

9.25 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 08/15/KOS



HE Lecturer Music

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 08/16/KOS



HE Supply Lecturers -Assessor and Verifier awards

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: S/HE/KOS



For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 4 February 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to Main bus/train Stations
- Close to City Centre
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Staff Discount Scheme

Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer



To advertise in this section
01303 817040



Canterbury
Christ Church
University
www.canterbury.ac.uk

Canterbury Christ Church University is the largest centre of higher education in Kent for the public services – notably teacher training, policing, health and social care – and is a significant provider of programmes in a wide range of academic and professional areas.

CANTERBURY CAMPUS

DEPARTMENT OF POSTGRADUATE INITIAL TEACHER EDUCATION

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer (ICT) in Initial Teacher Education

£27,466 to £40,335 per annum

You will contribute to ICT education teaching in a range of secondary ITE programmes. With qualified teacher status, a relevant first degree and teaching experience in secondary schools, you will hold a higher degree or work towards one as a priority if appointed.

Informal enquiries about the post may be made to the Acting Head of Department, William Stow, on 01227 782524. Ref: LSL3/PTD/77.

Closing date: 14 February 2008.

Interview date: 28 February 2008.

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY EDUCATION

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer (Science)

£27,466 to £40,335 per annum

You will contribute to Science teaching in a range of Primary Programmes depending on expertise and experience.

You will have qualified teacher status, a relevant first degree, teaching experience in primary and/or secondary schools, and a developed subject specialism in Science. You will hold a higher degree or work towards one as a priority if appointed.

Informal enquiries about the posts may be made to the Head of Department, Sue Kendall-Seatter, on 01227 782088. Ref: LSL7/PE/77.

REGISTRY

Assistant Registrar – Timetabling & Rooming

£32,796 to £40,335 per annum

You will lead the University's Timetable Unit which manages the teaching timetable and rooming of non-teaching events using a computerised system (Scientia Syllabus +). The Unit is responsible for the production of computerised University timetables. The role will involve developing policies and procedures in the area of timetabling and rooming to ensure that the service meets the needs of the institution and contributing, through the provision of data, to the development of the University's estate to meet the needs of academic and non-academic rooming requirements.

You will be qualified to first degree standard or equivalent with substantial administrative experience of timetabling and rooming within an HE/FE environment. A higher degree and a post experience management qualification would be advantageous. Ref: AR1/REG/77.

SPORT SCIENCE, TOURISM AND LEISURE

Research Development Officer (0.6fte)

(Fixed Term for 3 years)

£25,134 to £26,666 per annum pro-rata

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Informal enquiries to Professor Mike Weed on 01227 782743. Ref: RDO/SSTL/77.

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You must show initiative and be able to work without close supervision. Possession of relevant teaching qualifications, together with a level of IT literacy that encompasses familiarity with software applications for study support, would be advantageous. Ref: STU/SSSU/77.

Application forms and further details are available from www.canterbury.ac.uk. Alternatively please call 01227 782475 (answerphone) or e-mail hr@canterbury.ac.uk quoting the appropriate reference. No agencies.

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Closing date: 1 February 2008

To apply/more information

Mrs G Hill
All Saints CE Primary School
Magpie Hall Road
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Kent
ME4 5JY
Telephone - (01634) 338922
Email headteacher@allsaints.medway.sch.uk

St Margarets At Troy Town CE Primary School

Deputy Headteacher
Salary: Leadership scale 7 – 11 (£40,590 - £44,790)
Full Time and permanent
Required From: 21 April 2008
Closing date: 4 February 2008

To apply/more information

Mr J Falk
Headteacher
St Margarets At Troy Town CE Primary School
King Street
Rochester
Kent

ME1 1YF
Telephone - (01634) 843843
Email headteacher@st-margaretsattroytown.medway.sch.uk

Skinner Street Primary School

Year 5 teacher
Salary: MPS/UPS
Full Time and temporary
Term of Contract: Maternity Cover
Required From: 21 April 2008
Closing date: 19 February 2008

To apply/more information

School Office

Skinner Street Primary School

Skinner Street

Gillingham, Kent ME7 1LG

Telephone - (01634) 850213

Email office@skinnerst.medway.sch.uk

St Margarets CEVC Junior School

KS2 Teacher

Salary: MPS/UPS

Full Time and permanent

Required From: 21 April 2008

Closing date: 7 February 2008

To apply/more information

Paul Gabbett, Headteacher

St Margarets CEVC Junior School

Orchard Street

Rainham, Kent ME8 9AE

Telephone - (01634) 230998

Email office@stmargarets.org.uk

Dean Wood Primary Ed. Technology School

Salary: MPS/UPS

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Contract: 25th Feb - 31st

August 2008

Required From: 25 February 2008

Closing date: 05 February 2008

To apply/more information

Robin Halls

Headteacher

Long Catlis Road

Parkwood

Gillingham, Kent ME8 9TX

Telephone - (01634) 231901

Email headteacher@deanwood.medway.sch.uk

Deputy Headteacher

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Deputy Headteacher

Salary: Leadership scale 11 - 16

Full Time and permanent

Required From: 21 April 2008

Closing date: 1 February 2008

To apply/more information

Teacher of Food Technology &

Child Development

Salary: MPS/UPS

Full Time and permanent

Required From: 21 April 2008

Closing date: 11 February 2008

To apply/more information

Teacher of Food Technology &

Child Development

Salary: MPS/UPS

Full Time and permanent

Required From: 21 April 2008

Closing date: 11 February 2008

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Teacher of Food Technology &

Child Development

Salary: MPS/UPS

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To receive an information pack and application form please telephone the Human Resources Department on 01732 850551 or e-mail us at 'jobs@hadlow.ac.uk'.

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Post Ref: 08/17/KOS

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

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Closing date: 8 February 2008. Please quote reference: SH167/KOS.

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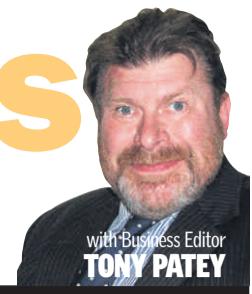
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

SeaFrance's new faces

SEAFRANCE has added two new faces to its marketing team to help promote its cross-Channel ferry services.

Mark Whitling has been taken on as online marketing executive. He previously worked as assistant communications manager for the Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust.

Jenny Marshall has also been appointed in the role of marketing communications executive after studying business administration with marketing.

Banking on the Gateway

CLYDESDALE Bank has launched a dedicated team to help businesses make the most of opportunities for growth within the Thames Gateway.

The new team, initially based in Maidstone, will focus on the region stretching from Dartford to Swale, which has been earmarked by the Government for massive investment in infrastructure and the construction of thousands of new homes.

Save on staff sick days

BUSINESSES have been urged to provide instant health checks for employees and save money by reducing the number of days they have off sick.

Water, based in Marden, want companies to take up well-being checks following a survey by CBI/AXA, which discovered employee sickness costs businesses an average of £600-a-year per worker.

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Exports still strong despite downturn

MANUFACTURING demand in the South East has remained firm in the face of serious concerns of a global economic downturn, according to the latest CBI Industrial Trends survey.

Three months ago bosses were expressing their fears as the credit crunch began to bite – but their pessimism faded as orders for British-made goods continued to hold up and exports grew at their fastest rate for 12 years.

Malcolm Hyde, CBI South East Regional Director, said: "Manufacturers share similar concerns to other sectors about the economy – a fear that rising costs might become combined with slowing demand.

"Thankfully, the expected wobble in demand didn't materialise in the last three months and orders for British-made goods have held up, particularly from abroad.

"What we are seeing is part of a necessary rebalancing of the economy, in the face of slowing consumer spending."

He said the dilemma now facing the Bank of England over interest rates is to weigh risks of a slowdown with the real and present pressure on prices in both factories and other areas of the economy.

"Price pressures from oil and food costs will bring higher inflation in the short-term and may push the inflation rate further above target during 2008, making the Bank's decision even more difficult," he said.

Although export orders in particular are remaining healthy, rising food and energy costs mean bosses expect their domestic prices to go up at the fastest rate for 13 years, pushing up export prices faster than they have done over the last two years.

Demand has continued to grow, with 28 per cent of firms saying total new orders increased in the three months to January compared with 17 per cent reporting a decrease. This exceeded expectations, but slower growth is expected in the next three months.

But demand this quarter was for the most part driven by export orders, no doubt helped by the weaker pound – though much of the currency's depreciation occurred after the survey was conducted.

Exports grew at the fastest rate since October 1995, but concerns that political and economic conditions abroad will limit orders over the coming three months have increased slightly since October and expectations are for flat growth in the next three months.



FEARS FADE: Wobble in demand didn't materialise and orders for British goods have held up

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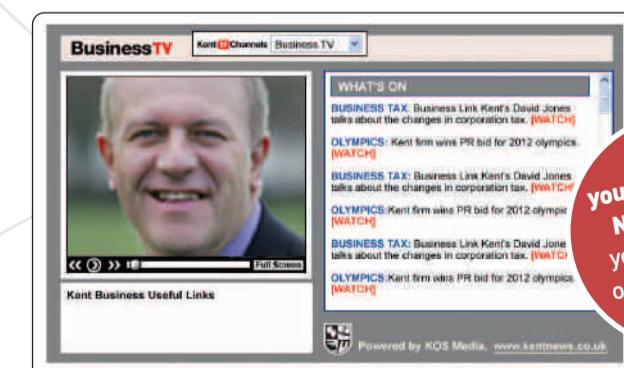


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Pupils get visit from rugby star

FORMER England rugby star Alastair Hignell visited pupils at the Sutton Valence School in Maidstone last Friday to give a talk about professionalism in sport.

Hignell played for England 14 times in his career, making his first appearance in 1975 and his final in a 27-3 defeat to Wales in 1979. However, the former England full back was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1999. Since then Hignell has been battling against the disease that affects the central nervous system.

The BBC Radio Five Live rugby correspondent also advised pupils on careers in sport and the media.

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 Kent batsmen Joe Denly talks about his experiences of facing spin in India

Sprint champion meets F1 heroes

BRITISH Sprint Champion Matt Oliver hopes to retain the title after dominating in 2007.

The 22-year-old competes in the sprint discipline which sees drivers compete against the clock over one lap and around motor racing circuits across the UK. The driver from Maidstone travels all over the country competing at circuits in a Formula One powered single-seater.

Oliver enjoyed meeting two of his sporting heroes, as he picked up his championship trophy at Motor Sports Association's annual Night of Champions last week.

He said: "It was a brilliant feeling to mingle with some of the sport's biggest stars. I spoke to former F1 champion Damon Hill who was interested in my sport which was nice to see. Talking to Lewis Hamilton was excellent; he is really down to earth. My sport is a very technical discipline. You have to give your all for just one lap and hope you can nail a decent time. Travelling at speeds of 170mph is challenging."



BACK ON TRACK: Maidstone United are back to winning ways after a disappointing performance last week thanks to a clinical penalty from striker Mo Takaloo

Takaloo penalty helps Stones past bottom side

A SECOND half penalty from Mo Takaloo proved the difference between the two sides as Maidstone United just about did enough to secure a victory.

United welcomed back Irish midfielder Conor Hagan for the match after his suspension. However, the Stones were without injured left back Craig Roser and centre back Chris Smalling who was on England Schoolboy duty.

Maidstone should have opened the scoring as early as the sixth minute, when Takaloo threaded a through ball to Lynden Rowland. With the goal at his mercy his powerful shot was straight at the goalkeeper Sam Tanner, who tipped the ball over the bar.

Goalkeeper Pat Mullin kept the Stones in the match with a point blank save from Rodderick Osei-Owusu's effort from eight yards, just minutes later.

Takaloo almost opened the scoring on the

FOOTBALL

■ BY TOM HOWARD

Leyton 0 Maidstone United 1

stroke of half-time. His curling shot beat the Leyton wall only for it to crash off the post.

Two minutes after the restart the referee gave what appeared to be a soft penalty to the visitors. Hagan burst into the area and defender Ben Gracey's clumsy challenge sent the midfielder crashing to the floor. Takaloo stepped up and sent Tanner the wrong way to give his side the lead.

The Maidstone goal scorer was later replaced by Alex Tiesse, as United went in search of another goal. The Ivorian striker should have increased their lead on 68 minutes. Nick Hegley sent a pin point cross to the head of Tiesse, but Tanner once again produced another save.

In the final ten minutes, goal scoring opportu-

nities fell to Tiesse, Hagan and Hegley, but Tanner in the Leyton goal was equal to them. The result was Leyton's tenth consecutive defeat and the three points has lifted the Stones to 11th in the Ryman Premier League.

Stones manager Alan Walker still believes he can capture the two strikers he has been after despite missing out last week. He also hopes to bring in a number of players after claiming that many of his squad are not good enough for Ryman Premier League football.

He said: "I am very disappointed that we have missed out on signing the two strikers we have been after. I had hoped we would have them at the club before the match. I will try again this week. Myself and Lloyd (Hume) are working as hard as we can to bring in more players. After the disappointing performance against Billericay, a number of players have had their last chance. The clock is ticking and it may be a time for a number of players to leave."

Maidstone face Kent rivals Ramsgate this Saturday as the two teams clash at Bourne Park.

Picture BOB HAYTON



COSTLY VICTORY: Maidstone smashed their opposition but lost yet another player due to a serious injury before their important Kent Cup match this weekend

Injury crisis at The Mote

A DEPLETED Maidstone managed to put their injury crisis behind them to produce a convincing victory – despite a 25 minute delay.

Maidstone were without Tommy King who was still suffering from bruised ribs and Andy Bacon who fractured a neck vertebra. By the end of the game the injury list was to increase.

However, Maidstone took the lead shortly after the start when Martin Arnold passed the ball to centre Mike Catherwood. He beat his opposite number to score in the corner. The conversion attempt slid wide.

The injury list increased just 12 minutes into the game as Craig Whitehead had to be replaced after

RUGBY

Maidstone 36 Guildford 5

fracturing his ankle. There was a 25 minute delay as an ambulance came to pick up the injured Whitehead.

Maidstone reshuffled their squad by putting Catherwood in at scrum half and moved Nick Van Mol into the centre. On the restart, the home side piled on the pressure and scored another try through Scott Mitchell. Maidstone added a penalty before the break.

Guildford began the second half with something to prove and they managed to breach the Maidstone

defence for the first time. Their fly-half spotted a gap in the defence to score a try, reducing the deficit to 15-5.

Maidstone raised their game and their swift attacking play proved crucial in the victory. Arnold used his pace to score in the corner to increase their lead. Catherwood and Nick Taylor also capitalised on a weak Guildford defence, both scoring tries to seal the victory.

The result cements Maidstone's position in fourth place in London 2 South. The much needed win after being thrashed by Sidcup, will raise the squad's morale as they face Old Colfeians in the quarter-final of the Kent Cup.

Bulls stampedede to win after bad start

RUGBY

■ BY YOURMAIDSTONE REPORTER

Aylesford Bulls 29 Lewes 10

CLINICAL attacking rugby was the key to unlocking Lewes as Aylesford Bulls claimed their eighth victory of the season.

However, the Bulls got off to the worst start possible by conceding a try after just two minutes. The Aylesford defence failed to deal with a quick counter attack by Lewes which concluded with their forwards crashing over the try line.

The try sparked the Bulls into action and their stranglehold of possession was rewarded by four penalties in the space of ten minutes. Fly half Dave Dorton stepped up and kicked all of them successfully to take the score to 12-5.

Shortly before the break, Aylesford increased their advantage with a well worked try finished by scrum half Toby Lord. His dummy pass and jinking run left the Lewes defence in shreds which allowed for an easy conversion for Dorton.

After the interval, lowly Lewes got back into the match with a slick move ending with their winger sliding over in the corner two minutes before the hour.

The victory was sealed in the last minutes of the match when a cross field move instigated by the Bulls was finished clinically by Adriaan Engelbrecht. Dorton added the extras.

Coach Nick France said: "We are hoping that either Gravesend or Dover slip up in the next few weeks so we can close the gap on them. The side are really starting to play well, I just wish we started the season the way we are playing now."

The victory sees the Bulls rise to within a point of third-placed Lordswood in London South East 3. Aylesford will be in action this Saturday against Tonbridge Juddians.



SECOND HALF RECOVERY: Aylesford Bulls fought back from going behind early on to record their fourth consecutive victory

Masters: I thought friend would die

Picture ADY KERRY



LIFE SAVER: Dani Masters put her first aid skills into practice to save her friend's life before taking her place in the World Cup

DANI Masters has revealed how she saved a team mate's life just days before having to take her place for England in the Women's World Cup of Golf.

While playing at a pro-am tournament in Spain, Masters walked in to discover Kirsty Taylor on the floor of their hotel room, seconds from death.

Despite seeing her good friend in such a distressing situation, the Maidstone golfer acted quickly and used basic first aid to save Taylor's life.

She said: "She had stopped breathing and had turned bright blue. I put her in the recovery position and opened her airway because she had swallowed her tongue – it was the scariest thing I have ever seen in my life."

"As soon as she started breathing I just burst into tears because I thought she was going to die."

Masters learned the skills which saved Taylor's life when training as a child welfare officer before becoming a professional golfer.

GOLF

The pair flew back to the UK the following day, where Taylor was diagnosed with a brain tumour.

The shocking news came a day before the 36-year-old was scheduled to fly to South Africa, where she was due to compete in the Women's World Cup of Golf.

With Taylor recovering from successful brain surgery to remove the cancer, Masters was selected to represent England instead. While under normal circumstances this would be a great honour, the 24-year-old travelled to South Africa with mixed emotions.

The 2008 season begins this week with the Women's Australian Open in Melbourne, where Masters will hope all the noteworthy events happen on the course.

Masters said: "I really think I am going to be hungry enough to get a first win and get enough points to break into the team."

yourmaidstone SPORT IN BRIEF

Sevenoaks put an end to Ladies' promotion hopes

A SECOND consecutive defeat has left Maidstone Ladies' promotion hopes in tatters.

Despite a 7-4 victory in their previous meeting, Maidstone's 3rd XI were unable to compete against a solid Sevenoaks side. Maidstone could only score once in 3-1 defeat.

The result has left them in fourth place on 18 points, now six points adrift of league leaders Tunbridge Wells. They will hope to get back to winning ways when they face sixth-placed Dartford on Saturday.

United players perform well for England boys

MAIDSTONE United players Chris Smalling and Ashley Ulph were in the starting line up for the England Schoolboys team on Sunday.

The two 18-year-olds were part of a 2-0 victory for England against Australia. Centre back Smalling was one of two players in the squad who played the entire 90 minutes. He also provided the assist for England's first goal, scored by Tom Siddons.

Their next fixture for England will be their clash with Northern Ireland at Glenavon FC on March 10.

Not an optimistic result for Valance Ladies

SUTTON Valence Ladies Hockey Club suffered their third defeat of the season at the hands of Folkestone Optimist.

Two goals from Anna Kish were not enough for Valence as Folkestone scored four in a 4-2 win. The result leaves Sutton Valence on 20 points in third place. However, they are just a point behind second-placed Sevenoaks in Kent Division 2.

This Saturday, Valence face Gillingham Anchors who are bottom of the league. In their previous meeting Valence won 6-3.

Semi-final hopes gone for Maidstone reserves

A CHANCE to appear in the semi-final of the Kent Intermediate Cup disappeared for Maidstone United reserves as they were beaten by Whitstable.

The Oystermen scored three times as Maidstone were outplayed in a 3-0 defeat. United will be back in league action this weekend when they take on Erith Town. Town are cemented to the bottom of league and are still searching for their first win of the season.

A win for Maidstone could see them rise to fourth place.

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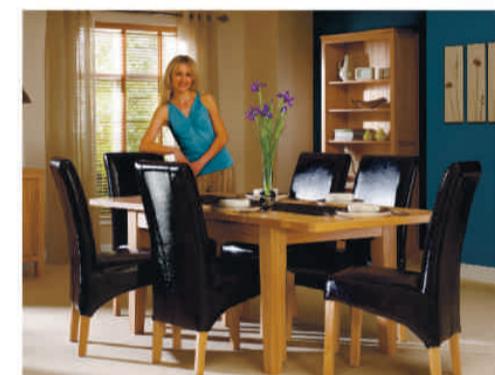
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